ASUKA COMICS DX

裏切りは僕の名前を知っている 2

H.Odagiri

小田切ほたる

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自らに課せられた宿命を受け入れ、ルカと共に天白（てんぱく）の許に向かった夕月（ゆづき）。
しかし前世の仲間である「戒めの手（ヴァイルト）」の焔椎真（ほつま）は夕月に敵対心を隠さない。
そんな夕月の周りで複雑に絡み合うふたつの事件が起こる。
悪魔（デュラズ）の関与を認めた天白は夕月と「戒めの手（ヴァイルト）」達に調査を命じるが――。

Urafiri wa Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

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CHARACTERS & STORY

Uragiri wa Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

Luka Crosszeria

A HIGH-CLASS DEMON (OPAST) WITH DEEP CONNECTIONS TO YUKI'S PAST LIFE. HE DEFECTED TO THE GIOH SIDE (I.E. THE HUMAN SIDE) DURING THE LAST ROUND OF BATTLES. HE HAS A "XX" SEAL CARVED ON HIS LEFT ARM.

Gioh Yuki

FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. ABANDONED IN FRONT OF AN ORPHANAGE AS AN INFANT, AND BELIEVED TO HAVE NO RELATIVES UNTIL TAKASHIRO CAME FOR HIM. HE HAS THE HEALING ABILITY "LIGHT OF GOD," AND HE CAN OCCASIONALLY FEEL THE EMOTIONS OF PEOPLE HE TOUCHES.

STORY

◆ THE WAR BETWEEN THE GIOH FAMILY AND DURAS HAS CONTINUED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS, AND THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO THE FIGHTING IS YUKI, A BOY WHO, WHILE LIVING IN AN ORPHANAGE, HAS CONSTANTLY SEARCHED FOR THE MEANING OF HIS EXISTENCE.

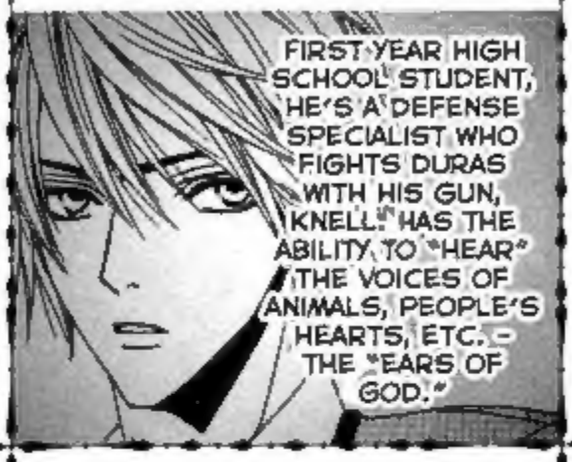
◆ TAKASHIRO AND CO. WANTED YUKI TO JOIN THEM. HOWEVER, YUKI TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION, WANTING TO BE THERE TO HELP EVERYONE AT THE ORPHANAGE. IN THE MIDST OF REPEATED ATTACKS FROM THE DURAS, TO PROTECT LUKA AND THE ZWEILT GUARDIANS WHO WERE ACTING AS HIS SHIELD, YUKI'S SLEEPING POWER AWAKENED!! YUKI LEFT THE ORPHANAGE DETERMINED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE DURAS WITH LUKA AND THE GIOH FAMILY.

◆ DETERMINED TO SEARCH FOR THE THINGS HE CAN DO TO HELP NOW, HE'S HEADED TO THE TWILIGHT MANSION WHERE HE'LL LIVE ALONGSIDE THE OTHER ZWEILT GUARDIANS.

◆ HOWEVER, THE TWO ZWEILT GUARDIANS WAITING FOR HIM SEEM TO HARBOR ANIMOSITY TOWARDS YUKI...

Murasame Tsukumo

AKA "One who hears and knows"



FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, HE'S A DEFENSE SPECIALIST WHO FIGHTS DURAS WITH HIS GUN, KNELL. HAS THE ABILITY TO "HEAR" THE VOICES OF ANIMALS, PEOPLE'S HEARTS, ETC. - THE "EARS OF GOD."

Murasame Toko

AKA "One who hears and knows"

SECOND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, SHE'S PAIRED WITH HER YOUNGER BROTHER, TSUKUMO. SHE IS THE OFFENSE SPECIALIST WHO FIGHTS DURAS WITH HER LARGE SWORD "EON." BOTH TSUKUMO AND HER HAVE THE SPECIAL ABILITY, "EARS OF GOD."

Usui Shusei

AKA "One who sees through all"

A SECOND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, AND A DEFENSE SPECIALIST, ZWEILT. HE'S PAIRED WITH HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND HOTSUMA. HIS SPECIAL ABILITY IS THE "EYES OF GOD."

Renjou Hotsuma

AKA "One who scorches"

FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, HE HAS THE POWER OF THE "VOICE OF GOD" AND IS AN OFFENSE SPECIALIST ZWEILT GUARDIAN WHO FIGHTS DURAS WITH HIS LARGE SWORD, "MASTER STROKE."

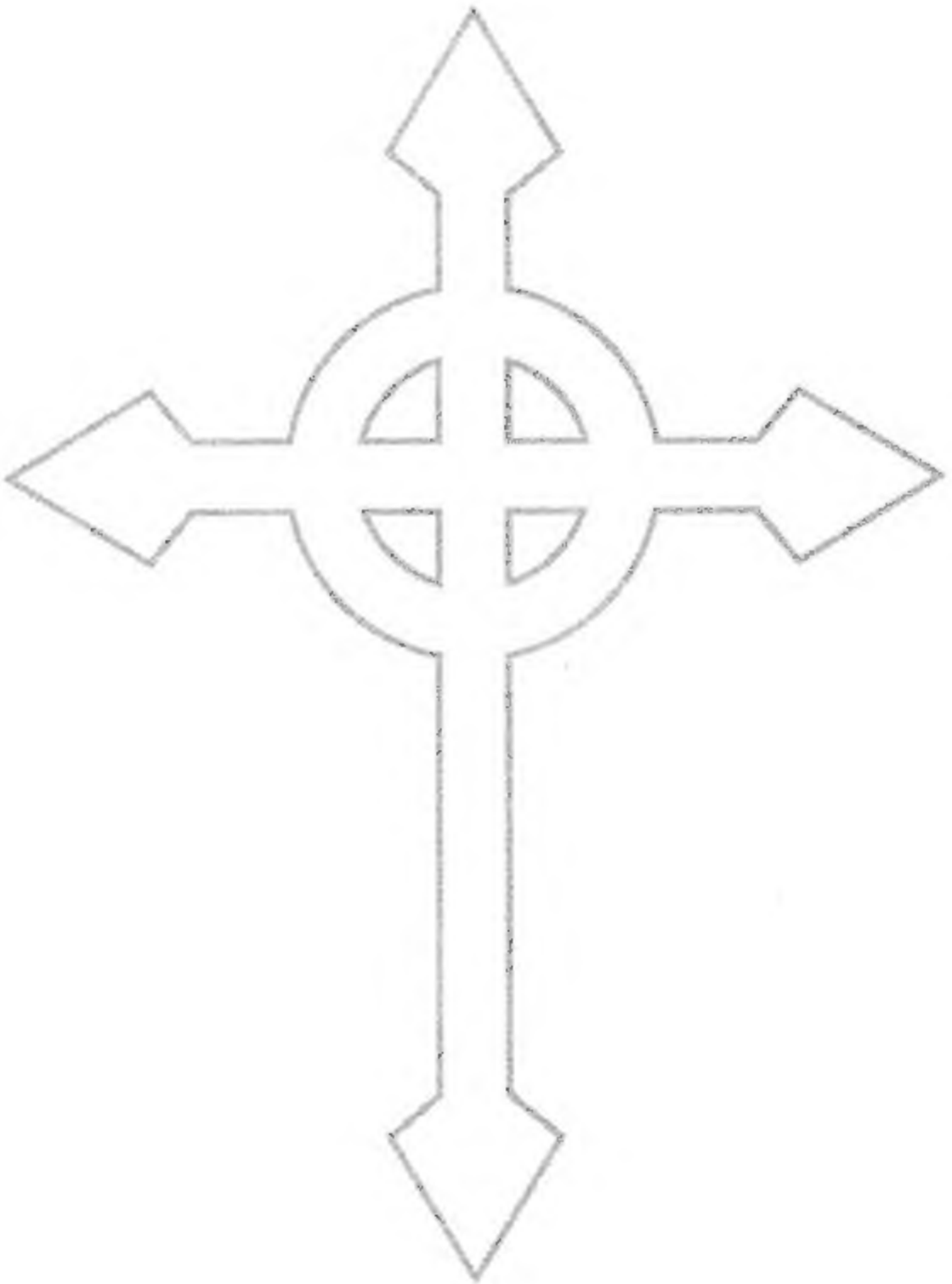
Gioh Takashino

HEAD OF THE GIOH FAMILY AND YUKI'S OLDER BROTHER FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER. HIS ABILITY IS THE PRESERVATION OF ALL THE FAMILY'S MEMORIES FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST BATTLE AGAINST THE DURAS - THE "SUNSET OF THE UNDERWORLD" - OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

ZWEILT GUARDIANS

GENERAL TERM FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT YUKI (WHO'S BEING TARGETED BY DURAS) AND HAVE THE POWER TO HUNT DURAS. AS A RULE, THEY MOVE IN UNITS COMPOSED OF TWO PEOPLE. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR POWERS, THEY ARE REPEATEDLY REINCARNATED.

Story 6 Suspicion



Uragiri wa Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

PREVIOUS CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS.
IT STARTED WITH A STRANGE MAN TRYING TO KIDNAP A LITTLE GIRL.
BY ACCIDENT,
Muahaha
YUKI CAUGHT HIM IN THE ACT.
YUKI WENT TO SAVE HER,
BUT FOUND HIMSELF OVERPOWERED BY THE MAN'S ABNORMAL STRENGTH!
Waaaah!!!
This power is isn't human!!
SUDDENLY A DASHING, BLONDE HERO MADE HIS ENTRANCE!
THE STRANGE MAN WAS VANQUISHED IN AN INSTANT!
BURN
ALAS, YUKI'S JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED.
DRAMATIZATION OF EVENTS.
BEHOLD! A NEW FRIEND AND ALLY WAS DISCOVERED!
I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF BECOMING FRIENDS WITH YOU!
DON'T JUST TOUCH ME!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN' WANDERING AROUND BY YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE BEING TARGETED BY DURAS!
ARE YOU FREAKIN' RETARDED—!?
This is why I don't like dumb amateurs.
END OF CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS
feh

...GREAT, WE ONLY JUST MET, AND I'VE ALREADY MADE HIM MAD...
AND FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T THINK HE LIKES ME MUCH, EITHER...
YOU SURE AS HELL DON'T LOOK SORRY TO ME!
WHAT, YOU LIKE GETTING YELLED AT?
Moron.
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO ACT TOO CASUALLY.
Err...
Ah.
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE YELLING BECAUSE... YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME... RIGHT?
THAT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.
STARE STARE STAAAARE
?
STARE
ARE YOU...
REALLY THAT YUKI?
HUH?
I MEAN, I SEE THE RESEM-BLANCE... BUT YOUR PERSONAL-ITY IS ALL... WHACK OR SOMETHING ...

THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT A KIDNAPPING... IN FRONT OF A POLICE STATION?
LURED... OUT?
AH...
THAT'S TRUE. I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT...
THE STREET?
IS SHE LOST?
HA, YOU'VE BEEN HAD. YOU WERE LURED OUT... BY THE DURAS.
There you are
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID HE HURT YOU?
TUG TUG
OH!
THAT MAN WAS TRYING TO DRAG HER OFF SOMEWHERE. I SAW THEM ON THE MAIN STREET OVER THERE.
I THINK SO..

I DIDN'T SENSE ANYTHING HUMAN IN THAT MAN.
HE WASN'T POSSESSED BY A DURAS, HE WAS A DURAS HIMSELF.

YOU'RE JUST SLOW!!!
BE MORE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!!
YOU HAVE REALLY GOOD REASONING SKILLS, HOTSUMA-KUN.
DURAS WHO TAKE ON A HUMAN FORM LOOK NO DIFFERENT THAN US,
SO IT'S EASY TO MISTAKE THEM FOR HUMANS.
THEY USED THAT TO DECEIVE YOU AND DRAW YOU OUT.
...AAAH, SHIT!
WAS AN INSOLENT, BULL-HEADED CH CK—
THE YUK I KNEW...
WHAT'S UP WITH TH S AIRHEAD?
DURAS CAN LOOK "NO DIFFERENT" THAN NORMAL PEOPLE...
DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE I MEET FROM NOW ON?
THAT CAN'T BE...
RISE
IS THAT... A CHIP?
WHAT'S THIS...?
It's in the combustible garbage
...HMM?

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
DO YOU INTEND TO REMAIN ON OUR SIDE, OR..
THAT IS WHY I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR FEELINGS.
I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED THAT THIS YUKI. . .
IS DIFFERENT FROM THE "YUKI" YOU KNEW.
I AM SO THANKFUL TO HAVE MET YOU.
YUKI IS YUKI.
THEY BOTH SHARE THE SAME SOUL... I CONFIRMED IT MYSELF.

LET ME BE DIRECT... I'M RELYING ON HAVING YOUR STRENGTH ON OUR SIDE.
I SEE. IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT.
MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED. I WILL REMAIN BY YUKI'S SIDE.
YES... THAT'S GOOD. YOU MUST ALWAYS BE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYTHING.
JUST SO YOU KNOW,
PROTECTING YUKI IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
I CAN'T TRUST YOU. I WON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU.
THAT'S WHAT WILL KEEP YUKI SAFE.

.....
TO KNOW SUCH PASSION AND DEVOTION.
I MUST SAY, THOUGH, THAT AT TIMES LIKE THIS I QUITE ENVY YOUR YOUTH
!
YUKI!!
WHY, BACK IN MY DAY...
Wait! I'm telling a story here
BYE.
STEP STEP
TAKASHIRO, THIS IS BAD!
YUKI'S MISSING!!
LUKA!
DASH

BOOM
CLICK
SHUSEI!
OVER THERE..!
DENIZENS OF THE DARKEST NIGHT!
BLACK CREATURES,

Vecco
BURN IN THE FIRES OF HELL!!
MOO
SHIT! I WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
UWAH! THEY'RE COMING FROM BEHIND TOO!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
Haa
Haa
EVERY ONE OF THESE GUYS LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME!

!!
LUKA!
!?
krrrch
fsshhh
ZZS!
ZZS!
ZZS!
YUKI,
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES.
HOTSUMA-KUN SAVED ME.

MAYBE NEXT TIME...
225+
HMPH.
NICE OF YOU TO SHOW UP F'NALLY.
YOU OUGHTA TRY GETTING HERE A LITTLE FASTER.
ISN'T PROTECTING HIM YOUR DUTY?
Amateur
Urk!
AND STICK A FREAKING LEASH ON HIM!
IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE THAT, YOU'D BETTER STOP THAT AMATEUR FROM MOVING AROUND SO FREELY...
HEY, DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!
YOU MOCKING ME?!
HOW ANNOYING ...
WHAT THAT—
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT ME FOR?
Stare
YOU PISS ME OFF!!

U—
WAH!
SPLAT
CATCH
YOU PISS ME OFF, TOO.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
WAIT, YOU TWO. DON'T FIGH—
I THINK YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY...
MMMM...
WAIT, GUYS.
JUST T—TAKE IT EASY...
THAT GUY WAS ONE OF OUR ENEMIES!
I NEVER SAID I ACCEPTED HIM AS ONE OF US!
LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG.
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.
ARE YOU TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP?!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT ME.
...MORE IMPORTANTLY, LOOK AT THIS.
.....
THIS CHIP—
THE CREATURES WE DEFEATED WERE GOLEMS... MERE CLAY PUPPETS.
!
THEY WEREN'T DURAS.
THIS CHIP IS INFERNUS TECHNOLOGY.
WEAK NIDATOREHI WHO CAN'T CONTROL DEMON BEASTS...
CAN MOVE PUPPETS LIKE CHESS PIECES BY BURYING ONE OF THESE CHIPS INSIDE.
WOW.
THEY MAKE THINGS LIKE THAT...
THAT'S NEWS TO ME.
...HM? WAIT, THAT MEANS...
THE HEAD DURAS IS STILL AROUND.
EXACTLY.
RUSTLE

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...HERE THEY COME.
COME ON, THIS WAY...!
G— GOT IT
GET AWAY FROM US AND FIND COVER IN THE TREE SHADOWS.
SWOOSH
HEY, AMATEUR.

IT'S THE WHOLE ARMY.

H—HEY, YOU TWO. THIS IS REALLY THE TIME FOR SOME TEAMWORK! YOU KNOW? TEAMWORK?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU BRAT?!
Brat? I have centuries on you.
DON'T BE STUPID.
I'M THE ONE DOING THE PROTECTING.
TSK!
LOOKS LIKE ..
I'M GONNA HAVE TO GUARD YOUR BACK.

I SENSE HIM... BUT HIS AURA BLENDS IN WITH THE OTHERS. I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT'S COMING FROM.
NO.
...CAN YOU LOCATE THE HEAD DURAS?
SHIT... ALL RIGHT. TEMPORARY TRUCE.
I KNOW.
WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE DESTROYING THEM ONE BY ONE.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME
flare
. I'LL TAKE ALL OF THEM OUT IN ONE BLOW.
YOU BUY SOME TIME.
HUUUH ?!
You trying to hog the spotlight ?!
...TSK!
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE!
fla
re

" ..BUY SOME TIME"?
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
Shink
MASTER STROKE!
Rumble Rumble Rumble
JUST WATCH, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.
Grrrrrrrrr
HERE I COME! RAHHHH!

KA-BOOM
THOSE TWO ARE INCREDIBLE.
Oh...
THEY'RE EVEN WORKING TOGETHER.
Reach
...DO YOU WANT TO HOLD HANDS?
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET YOU BACK HOME SAFE.
...HUH?
!!
Raaargh
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET PAST ME?
BLACK CREATURES OF THE DARK,
BURN!
FWOOOOOOM

HEY! AREN'T YOU DONE YET?!
blink
THE SPELL IS COMPLETE.
I summon thee, King of Beasts,
Sodom the First!
Crimson Salamander!
HUUHH?!
What the hell is that?!

ROAAAAAAR
GRAWOOM
dash dash dash
GHG...
—AGH! NOW HE'S DONE IT!
Kaboom!
whoa
...THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.
NO, NOT YET.
I CAN STILL SENSE THE DURAS.
JUST HOW POWERFUL ...
IS THIS GUY?
Wipe
Fshhhhhh
HE TORE THE ENTIRE FOREST TO PIECES!
hhhhhhhhhh
THAT MOVE IS FREAKING OVERKILL.
HE'S CRAZY!

MOVE AND I CAN'T PROMISE WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THIS PUNY HUMAN!
AHAHA HAHAHA!
NOT ANOTHER STEP!!
YUKI!!
Squeeze
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE THE ONE THAT WAS ON UZUKI-KUN'S NECK.
IT HAS A DIFFERENT SHAPE,
I—I THOUGHT SO...
THE MARK ON THE PALM OF HER HAND...

SUCH A YOUNG LITTLE GIRL...!
SHE'S BEEN POSSESSED BY A DEMON.
THIS S BAD! ONLY SHUSEI CAN "EXORCISE AND BIND."
NOW~ HOW SHOULD I KILL YOU, I WONDER?
Ahaha♥
I KNOW.
THEY SAID I COULD HAVE AAANYTHING I WANT. ♡
GUESS WHAT, LITTLE BOY? IF I KILL YOU,
TO THINK THAT I WOULD MEET YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE!
WHAT A LUCKY, LUCKY DAY.
Hehe

IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
I'm... scared.
I... don't...
want... do... this...
Help... me...
Ehoka
I... HAVE TO DO SOME-- THING ...
IF I DON'T... CREATE AN OPENING, THEN LUKA AND HOTSUMA-KUN CAN'T MAKE A MOVE.
IF I COULD JUST...
.....
...me.
Ehoka
UGH! STUPID GIRL!
I DIDN'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO COME OUT!

GRAB
Squeeeeeeze!
WHA—
—ET OUT.
GET OUT OF THIS LITTLE GIRL'S BODY, DEMON—!!
psht
psht
psht
psht

THE DURAS ...
WAS FORCED OUT...?
kmch
YOU'RE LATE,
SHUSEI !!
...SORRY ABOUT THAT.
!
Exorcise and bind.
flare
CRASHLANK
CRASHLANK
CRASHLANK

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF.
YEAH.
HOTSUMA, FINISH IT.
NO!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS CAGE!
klang klang klang
I CAN'T GET OUT!!
DON'T GO USING SWEET LITTLE KIDS FOR YOUR TWISTED SCHEMES!
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
SFX: SWOOSH
BOOM

Vampire no Koibito no
Hana - Shishou
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Story 7
BEING LOCKED UP ISN'T A BIG DEAL.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD ANY FREEDOM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I KNOW THAT WHAT TRULY PAINS ME ISN'T SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
THE MOST ...
PAINFUL THING IS—

Story 7

The Border Between Light and Despair

FWSHHHHHHHH
EVERYONE.
GOOD JOB,
LET'S HAVE THIS GIRL'S MEMORIES ERASED.
SHE'S ALL RIGHT, SHE JUST PASSED OUT.
TAKA-SHIRO-SAN...

I WAS WORKED HARD BY THAT SCARY DUDE OVER THERE.
OVER THERE,
THAT'S NOT IT!!
IT AIN'T MY FAULT!!
HOW UNUSUAL..
YOU WERE ONLY UP AGAINST LOW-LEVEL DURAS.
HOTSUMA,
AH?
YOUR ...
ARM IS BLEEDING.
I SEE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER HOTSUMA.
—WELL THEN...
...NOT REALLY.

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BY THE WAY,
THE INTRODUCTIONS ARE BIT LATE,
AAH, AGAIN...
see lightning

HIS PARTNER OVER THERE IS USUI SHUSEI.
HIS SPECIAL ABILITY IS "EYES OF GOD," AKA "ONE WHO SEES THROUGH ALL."
BUT THE BLONDE ONE IS RENJOU HOTSUMA.
HIS SPECIAL ABILITY IS "VOICE OF GOD," AKA "ONE WHO SCORCHES."

QUIT IT, YOU GUYS.
"It's always like this.
AAH, TOTALLY FORGOT.
BUT, UMM...
SHOULDN'T WE STOP THEM?
I—I GOT THE GIST OF IT.
AND THEY'RE BOTH ZWEILT GUARDIANS.
Same as Tsukumo and them.
THEY'RE COMRADES.

BOOM
HEY —
YOU GUYS.
WE SHOULD START HEADING BACK SOON.
THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN', TAKASHIRO!!
DON'T PLAY SENILE, YOU BASTARD!
SINCE WHEN HAVE WE GOTTEN ALONG!?
WE ALREADY KNOW HOW CLOSE YOU GUYS ARE.
HOTSUMA, THAT'S NOT A GOOD WAY TO PUT IT.
dodged
BARRIER?
I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE, TAKASHIRO-SAMA.
WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS.
YES.
THEN THE BARRIER CAN COME DOWN NOW, RIGHT?
yes
OFF.
FWISH

FSHHHH
WOOSH
WE WENT AHEAD AND SET UP A BARRIER TO ISOLATE THIS SPACE.
Well Snuset did.
IT... IT'S BACK TO NORMAL!!
Even the trees!
SO THE ENTIRE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION.
IN DOING SO, WE PREVENT RANDOM PEOPLE FROM WANDERING IN, AND NO MATTER WHAT'S HARMED,
IT WON'T INFLUENCE ANYTHING IN THIS REALM.
In other words, everything returns to normal.
FOLLOW WHO'S EXAMPLE!?
careless individuals
HEH!
YOU SEE, THERE ARE MANY CARELESS INDIVIDUALS WHO BREAK THINGS WHEN THEY DON'T NEED TO.
JUST DON'T FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.

HIGH CLASS...?
YOU MEAN... STRONGER THAN THE ONES WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH 'TIL NOW?
THERE'S NO COMPARISON.
FROM NOW ON, HIGH CLASS DURAS WILL ALSO START APPEARING ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
WELL ...
THINGS ARE LIKELY TO BECOME DIFFICULT.
Though we are handling things fairly
AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL LOOK LIKE.
OUR ENEMIES COULD POP OUT ANYTIME AND ATTACK US,
YOUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE FIGURING OUT A MEANS OF ESCAPE
IF YOU SEE..
A HIGH-CLASS DURAS, AN OPAST,
IS SO BEAUTIFUL THAT YOU'LL DOUBT THEY'RE OF THIS WORLD.
THE APPEAR-ANCE OF A HIGH-CLASS DURAS...
YOU'LL KNOW ONE WHEN YOU SEE IT.

THAT APPEARANCE IS TO BETTER LEAD PEOPLE ASTRAY...
Though they're really not from this world
...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ZESS?
LUKA IS...
LUKA...
A HIGH CLASS DURAS... ISN'T HE...
No matter how you look at it

relieved
THANK GOODNESS! YOU WOKE UP!
DON'T WORRY, EVERY-THING'S FINE.
WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
HOME ..
YUP. CAN YOU TELL US YOUR ADDRESS?
MM... UH...?
I MEAN, LUKA ISN'T SCARY AT ALL.
BUT...
THE FACT THAT THEY'RE "DEMONS" HASN'T REALLY SET IN...
!?
HUH? WAI...
NO...!
NO...! I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME! I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME...!!
FLASH!
UNGH...

I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO SAY.
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING! STOP GIVING YOUR MOTHER A HARD TIME!
I'M... I'M A B. !
I'M A BAD GIRL. . THAT'S WHY.
MOMMY. . HATES ME. .
WHAT SHOULD I DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?
YOU'RE NOT A BAD GIRL AT ALL.
squeeze
NO...
YOU'RE NOT.

"DON'T WORRY."

"YOU'RE LOVED."

EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO GIVE HER PEACE OF MIND, I CAN'T SAY THOSE WORDS.

WORDS IN WHICH I HAVE NO FAITH—

THE STIGMA OF BEING UN-WANTED THAT I MYSELF CARRY.

I SAW IT A LOT AT THE ORPHANAGE.

CHILDREN ABANDONED BY THEIR PARENTS...

CHILDREN ABUSED BY THEIR PARENTS...

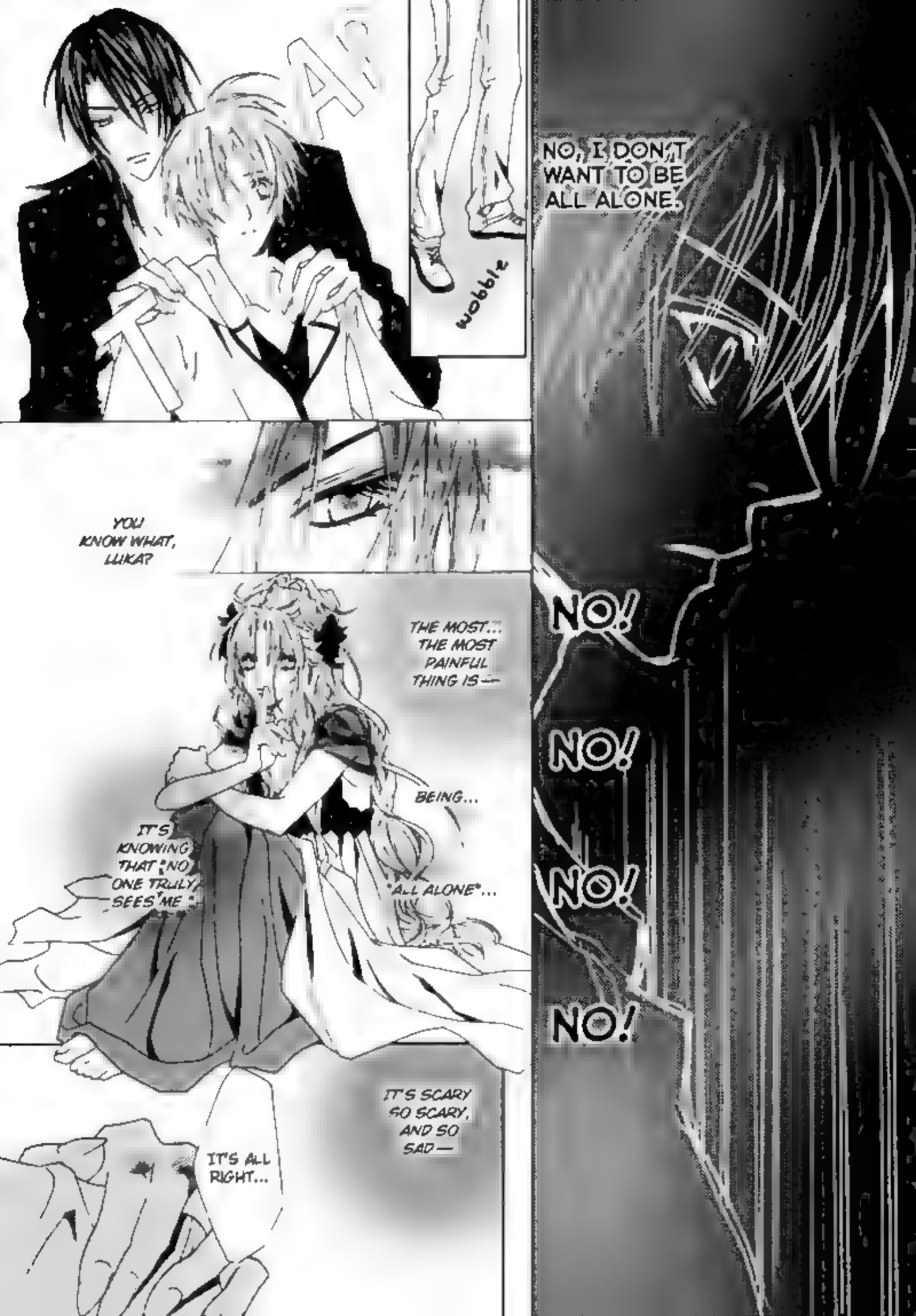
AND MORE THAN ANY-THING,

TAKA-SHIRO-SAN...
IT SEEMS LIKE THIS GIRL'S PAR-ENTS AREN'T GETTING ALONG...
AND...
I SEE.
YOU SAW IT AGAIN, HUH?
I UNDER-STAND. WE'LL BE SURE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS ON OUR SIDE.
SHE'S BEING ABUSED ...
BY HER MOTHER.
—— I AM...
SO INCREDIBLY POWERLESS.
.....
—THAT CHILD IS MOST LIKELY IN POSSES-SION OF A GRIMOIRE.
WE MUST RECOVER THAT AS WELL.

IN GENERA..
DURAS DON'T COME HERE UNLESS THEY'RE SUMMONED.
METHODS TO.. SUMMON DURAS...?
GRIMOIRE..
IT'S A BOOK OF MAGIC CONTAINING METHODS FOR SUMMONING DURAS... CORRECT?
...HOWEVER, ANYONE IN POSSESSION OF A GRIMOIRE CAN SUMMON THEM.
A bit of spiritual power is required, though.
PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND—
THEY ARE DRAWN TO DARKNESS IN HUMAN HEARTS,
THE WORLD IS DOTTED WITH GRIMOIRES.
BECOME OUR ENEMIES.
ARE POSSESSED BY DEMONS, AND ATTACK HUMANS...
THOSE WHO ACQUIRE GRIMOIRES ...

IT'S DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH NORMAL HUMANS FROM POSSESSED HUMANS...
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO IS A DURAS-ENGRAVED ...
BLOOD SEAL.
—!
HOWEVER, THE SEAL'S PLACEMENT ON THE BODY...
ISN'T NECESSARILY IN A PLACE THAT WOULD SHOW...
BASI-CALLY,
YOU'RE BETTER OFF THINKING THAT THE TWO ARE INDISTINGUISH-ABLE.
WHICH— IS— WHY—
YOU SHOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF PEOPLE WHEN YOU SEE THEM.
MORE LIKE, IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T APPROACH STRANGERS AT ALL.
—ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...THAT BRAT FROM JUST NOW IS NO EXCEPTION.
AFTER ALL, HUMANS, WHOEVER THEY ARE, CARRY DARKNESS.

ALL OF A SUDDEN, I BECAME AWARE OF IT.
TOO MANY THINGS HAPPENED AT ONCE, AND I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO PROCESS ANYTHING.
I...
THAT'D BE SO GREAT...
FROM THE BEGINNING, I WASN'T TIED TO ANYONE.
MY TIES WITH OTHER PEOPLE WILL GROW WEAKER.
HUMANS POSSESSED BY DEMONS...
DEMONS WHO LOOK JUST LIKE HUMANS...
AND MYSELF WHO IS BEING TARGETED BY THEM.
NO WAY...
I DON'T WANT TO BE...
ALONE MORE THAN I ALREADY AM—
THAT'D BE SO GREAT...
HAVING A MOMMY AND A DADDY.
I MUST KEEP A DISTANCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND OTHER PEOPLE.


wobble
NO, I DON'T WANT TO BE ALL ALONE.
NO!
NO!
NO!
NO!
YOU KNOW WHAT, LUKA?
THE MOST... THE MOST PAINFUL THING IS—
BEING...
"ALL ALONE"...
IT'S KNOWING THAT "NO ONE TRULY SEES ME."
IT'S SCARY SO SCARY, AND SO SAD—
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

YES, PLEASE,

I WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO SOMEONE.

Right right

WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU CAN'T MAKE FRIENDS.

AND WE'LL BACK YOU UP WHENEVER WE CAN.

PLUS, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF "RELATIVES" WHO'LL HELP YOU OUT.

THEY MAY BE A BIT FOUL-MOUTHED, ARROGANT, AND HAVE LOUSY ATTITUDES, THOUGH.

technically a relative

THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT ME!?

I HATE THAT GUY!
I SAID IT FROM THE GET GO!
While we're at it, same applies to the guy in black behind him!
I'VE HATED HIS GUTS FROM WAY, WAY, WAYYYYYYYY BEFORE!!!
GOODNESS, ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A REBELLIOUS PHASE?
You sure are a brat
AND JUST WHO'S ...
GONNA GIVE A HELPIN' HAND?

LET ME DO THINGS MY OWN WAY.
ANYWAY ..
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I ALREADY CALLED FOR SOMEONE TO COME GET ALL OF US.

NOW I FEEL LIKE SHT...
THOSE DISGUSTING, BLACK FEELINGS...
ARE REAWAKENING ...

.....
.....
..AH!
YEAH RIGHT!
I'LL GET HOME ON MY OWN.
LET'S GO, SHUSEI.

I'M STILL INEXPE-RIENCED, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FROM NOW ON—
...EVERY-THING IS FINE.
D...
DON'T SAY "I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU"!!
.....
SHUSEI,
HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
YOUR FACE LOOKS PALE.

I WAS SHOCKED BACK THERE...
WHEN HE DID THAT.
CAN YOU REALLY HUG SOMEONE WHO'S TRYING TO KILL YOU...?
AHH!
I'M SO ANNOYED.
THAT GUY TOTALLY SCREWS UP MY PACE!!
THAT'S TRUE. -
HE GIVES A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN THE "YUKI" IN MY MEMORIES...
ALL I KNOW IS...
I WON'T WORK WITH ANYONE WHO I DON'T TRUST WITH MY LIFE.
WHAT-EVER...
I'M SURPRISED YOU'D COME UP WITH LINES LIKE THAT...
HUH?
I DIDN'T JUST COME UP WITH THEM.
IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT.

Like, "thank you for trusting me so much," or something
THEN I WONDER IF I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU FOR TEAMING UP WITH ME?
ISN'T IT THE SAME FOR YOU?
DON'T PUT IT ALL ON ME.
Of course
OH, I SEE...
He was just saying exactly what he thought
Same as usual.
WHAT HOTSUMA SAID WAS HARSH...
I REALLY DO APOLOGIZE, YUKI.
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU'RE STARTING TO REGRET...
YOUR CHOICE TO COME WITH ME?
I WONDER WHAT I DID IN MY PAST LIFE...?
I REALLY AM HATED, HUH...
BUT—
THAT GUY...
WON'T GET CLOSE TO ANYONE OTHER THAN SHUSEI.
AH... SURE.

.. HUH?
NO, THERE'S NO WAY!
I—I ALSO
WANT TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE!
JUST WHAT IS IT...
THAT THESE HANDS CAN GRAB ONTO, I WONDER.
I'LL WORK HARD TO GAIN EVERYONE'S APPROVAL.
I STILL CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE,
BUT SOMEWHERE IN MY MIND, I KNOW, I CAN FEEL IT...

THAT THESE COMRADES, THESE FRIENDS, ARE *REAL*.

... YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY, YUKI.
WHY DON'T WE DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP, AS BROTHERS?
Oh, I KNOW. HOW ABOUT WE TRY SLEEPING TOGETHER NEXT TIME? ♡
rub rub
Ah. Right brother
GLARE
SWOOSH

It's even got wings!!
IT'S SO CUTE ...!!
AAAAAH! WHAT!? WHAT IS THIS!?
PLOP
tremble tremble
...AAH, SODOM.
completely forgot about him
HMM?
PLOP?
No need to leave so quickly
Yep.
DON'T TELL ME, THAT DRAGON!?
The one you summoned
No way!
BY "SODOM" YOU MEAN...
HELP
WHAT KEEPS THIS BOY GOING...
IS THE INTENSE FEELING OF "NOT WANTING TO BE ALONE."
HE HAS A STRANGE CHARM TO HIM,
AND HE WAS RAISED A TRULY STRONG, GOOD KID.
YUKI,
IT MAKES DECEIVING YOU HURT A LITTLE.

Story 7 End

Vampire no Koibito no
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Story†8
I THOUGHT SHINJUKU WAS A MORE LIVELY, BUSTLING PLACE.
IT'S RATHER QUIET, ISN'T IT.
A PLACE THAT IS IN SHINJUKU, YET NOT IN SHINJUKU.
HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE GIOH PREMISES,
NO, IT IS A BUSTLING CITY.
ONCE WE EXIT THIS TUNNEL,
WE'LL BE AT THE TWILIGHT MANSION.
Likes him
A BARRIER'S BEEN RAISED AROUND THE GROUNDS,
A BARRIER... I JUST LEARNED ABOUT THOSE..
AND IT SEEMS THAT ORDINARY HUMANS CAN'T ENTER.
THIS PLACE ISN'T ON ANY MAPS, EITHER.

Story 8
Twilight Mansion
WHAT IS THAT BLACK THING ...?
PRIN
CESS
TADAA
IS THIS HOW RELATIVES NORMALLY GREET EACH OTHER...?
I—
I'M HOME.
Squeeze
WELCOME HOME, YUKI.
Stare
YUKI-CHAN!
You got a problem with me?
What?
Glomp
I'm his relative and all
T-TOKO-CHAN ..!
WELCOME HOME!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU——!

CRASH
move
Welcome
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU JUST CALLED ME, BUT I'LL KILL YOU.
What the hell's a player!?
You player!
I KNOW, LUKA-KUN, YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP THE PRINCESS ALL TO YOURSELF ...!!
Aah!
Noooo!
Why am the only one who doesn't get a hug—!?
...What's with this treatment!?
You're mean!!
STONE
SHUT UP.
YES!
YOU CAN EVEN TALK TO ME ABOUT THOSE COMMON WORRIES THAT TEENAGE BOYS HAVE...
FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING, OK?
MY NAME IS GIOH TACHIBANA, AND I'M THE SUPERINTENDENT HERE.
WHACK
smile
ANYWAY, YUKI-CHAN,
Well,
SETTING ASIDE PLAYBOY LUKA-KUN ...
Hey...
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, PRINCESS.. ERR, YUKI-KUN. ♪
AH .. N—NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

THIS GIRL...
IS KUREHA AYA-CHAN
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
I WILL BE IN CHARGE OF LOOKING AFTER EVERYONE.
PLEASE REFER TO ME AS "AYA," YUKI-SAMA.
...HEH?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, YUKI-SAMA?
SA...
"SAMA" I—IS TOO MUCH!
ERR, COULDN'T YOU REFER TO ME MORE CASUALLY...?
HUH ...?
BUT ..
HE ASKED YOU TO HIMSELF,
SO CAN'T YOU REFER TO HIM CASUALLY?
AH.. YES.
THEN. .
YU..
YUKI . SAN..
OH, SURE.
JUST LIKE THAT!
WELL THEN—
I WILL SHOW YOU INSIDE.
Thank you!
Relieved

THIS IS...
THE TWILIGHT MANSION
IT'S OLD, BUT IT'S AN ENORMOUS MANSION...
YOUR ROOM IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
AAH, WAIT UP, LUKA-KUN.
GO TO THE INFIRMARY TO HAVE YOUR SHOULDER LOOKED AT FIRST.
GRAB
THIS LITTLE THING WILL HEAL SOON ENOUGH.
NO, NO, THAT'S AN ORDER FROM TAKASHIRO-SAN.
!!!
AH,
I'LL DO IT.
OR WILL YOU HAVE YUKI-KUN HEAL YOU?
WE NEED YOU HEALED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL BE ATTACKED BY DURAS, RIGHT?
...TSK.

I don't want to have Yuki do it, but I don't want to go to that place either.
YUKI-KUN, COME WITH US. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO ANOTHER ZWEILT, THE FAMILY DOCTOR.
AH...
I'M COMING ALONG, TOO! ♥
Have fun
—BUT YOU KNOW, TACHIBANA, ISUZU-SENSEI HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR ABOUT 3 DAYS NOW...
Hum?
REALLY? I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT HIM GOING OUT.
Infirmary
Danger
DOCTOR, ARE YOU IN?
KNOCK KNOCK
Infirmary
FOR SOME REASON... I REALLY DON'T WANT TO OPEN THIS DOOR...
HUH?
NOT HERE, HUH...
Th-
THIS IS THE INFIRMARY ...?
ISUZU-SENSEI?
...HM?
IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, THEN SAY SO—!
HEEEEY!

Graaaahh
Reach
YUKI!?
JUST NOW, IT SEEMED LIKE THIS TRASH HEAP MOVED...?
A GUY CAME OUT OF THE TRASH HEAP!?
Huh!?
slide
slide
But..
SODOM...
L-LUKA'S FAMILY'S DRAGON,
What is this life form ~~~~?
SODOM, RETURN.
AAH! HE VANISHED!?
Doctor, don't you kind of smell?
Have you taken a bath lately?
peel
VERY INTERESTING!
TRULY, VERY INTERESTING!!
What are you doing, doctor?
flail flail
SODOM!?
THIS IS THAT LEGENDARY...?
rumble
rumble
THEN I ASSUME THIS IS A SPECIAL FORM USED TO PRESERVE HIS MAGICAL POWERS IN THE HUMAN REALM..!?
leap
So you were here
Hm?
We've been here for a while
OH, WHEN DID YOU GUYS GET HERE?
DOCTOR, DON'T TELL ME...
THESE 3 DAYS NO ONE'S SEEN YOU, YOU WERE ACTUALLY PASSED OUT AGAIN?

SO, DID YOU WANT SOMETHING, TACHIBANA?
YEAH, I WANTED YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT LUKA-KUN.
LUKA?
By Luka you mean Zess, your friend, right—?
And he makes that memory wiping medicine
ISUZU-SENSEI IS ALSO DOING RESEARCH CONCERNING DURAS.
DOCTOR, I LIKE THAT PART ABOUT YOU, BUT...
You'll die one of these days.
...YEAH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, I ONLY HAVE MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED UNTIL MIDWAY THROUGH MY LAST EXPERIMENT
I see I passed out for 3 days, huh.
I'VE ALWAYS PLEADED WITH YOU TO ALLOW ME TO INVESTIGATE EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF YOUR BODY!
OH! I SEE~~~!!
Research ♥ Research ♥
EXPOSE EVERYTHING TO ME!!
COME NOW, TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES AND SIT HERE!!
I'm going back.
Bam Bam
SO YOU'VE FINALLY GOTTEN INTO THAT MOOD, HAVE YOU!?
No, he hasn't.
!?
JUST GIVE IN— OR WILL YOU LET YUKI-KUN HEAL YOU?
push push
I can't stand how he says things!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE HIM LOOK AT ME!!
LUKA! PLEASE LET HIM HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!!

Yuki
Pervert
SLAM
WELL THEN, DOCTOR, WE'LL LEAVE HIM TO YOU.
.....
LUKA ...
SEEMED TO HATE IT, THOUGH...
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU AROUND THE MANSION UNTIL DINNER?
Tonight's your welcome party~
AH, NO..
SOMEHOW OR OTHER,
I FEEL LIKE. . I REMEMBER IT.
I THINK I UNDER-STAND...
WHY EVERYONE SAID "WELCOME HOME."
I'VE .. LIVED HERE BEFORE, RIGHT?
I SEE.
.....
THEN HOW ABOUT WE GO TO THE INNER GARDEN AND HAVE A CHAT OR SOME-THING?

YUKI-CHAN...
DID HOTSUMA SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?
YES, BUT I WAS SAVED BY HOTSUMA-KUN.
YOU WERE ATTACKED BY DURAS SOON AFTER ARRIVING...?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE.
I HEARD ABOUT IT.
YUKI-CHAN ...
YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU...?
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE HE HATES ME...
HAHA
IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS, YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED SCARY AND PAINFUL THINGS...
AND EVEN AMONG COMRADES, THERE'S UNREST IN THE AIR—
BEING SUDDENLY BROUGHT TO A PLACE WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE...
USUALLY, PEOPLE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF FUTURE SORROW, OF A NEW DAY DIFFERENT FROM OUR PAST.
...I'M SORRY ...
IT SEEMS UNFAIR!
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE LIVING SO PEACE-FULLY...

I'M SORRY
FOR KEEPING SO MANY THINGS SECRET...
BUT I...
KYUH
WE...
YOU'RE SO KIND, TOKO-CHAN
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
THANK YOU.
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, AND YOU FEEL THAT WAY...
I'LL BE FINE
TSUKUMO-KUN.
LUKA.
TAKA-SHIRO-SAN...
YES!
EVEN HOTSUMA-KUN
A LOT OF PEOPLE ..
ARE LOOKING OUT FOR ME
THAT'S HOW I'VE BEGUN TO FEEL EVER SINCE I CAME HERE.

YEAH
"BONDS," I GUESS.
..UH
YOU KNOW, WE...
AND MAYBE, OBTAINING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME...
IS SOMETHING I CAN DO, HUH... HAHA.
THAT ALONE ... ALREADY ...
MAKES ME HAPPY.
IT SEEMS SILLY...
MY OWN FUTURE LOOKS TO ME TO BE... SHINING.
...IT'S SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?
AND WHAT...
IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, YUKI-CHAN?

Look, we met not long ago.
You don't recognize me?
Ruffle
Huh!?
.....?
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, YUKI-CHAN...
NICE, "BONDS"!
His recovery sure is quick.
I'VE FINISHED TREATING LUKA.
CORRECT. ♪
AAAAAAAH! DOCTOR——!?
It's like a different person!! U U
SORRY FOR NOT PROPERLY INTRODUCING MYSELF EARLIER.
I'M FUJIWARA ISUZU.
ANY-THING ...
I WONDER IF I CAN BE COUNTED IN THAT GROUP AS WELL?
I'M CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF RESEARCHING EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR DURAS-INFLICTED INJURIES.
THAT COULD HELP WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO YOUR POWERS...
IS WHAT I'M THINKING!

.....
LIKE I SAID, QUIT PHRASING THINGS LIKE THAT...!
FOR INSTANCE, HE TAKES OFF HIS CLOTHES HIMSELF! AND HE EVEN SAID HE'D LET ME SEE HIS BODY ONCE A MONTH.
NO, WELL, TO BE HONEST, WHEN IT CONCERNS YOU, LUKA'S VERY COOPERATIVE!!
Good for you
My research can continue
—HEY, REIGA,
NO...
CAN I GO OUT AND LET LOOSE YET?
I'M SO BORED ..
UNTIL I SAY OTHERWISE.
YOU WILL REMAIN ON STANDBY...

Rustle
who knows?
ANYWAYS, WHY DON'T WE PLAY A GAME, HYDE?
WHERE DID THE OTHERS GO, JEKYLL?
Oh yeah!
FIIINE...
HEHE ♡
SEEMS LIKE I SNUCK OUT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING. ♡
AFTER FINALLY COMING TO THE HUMAN REALM,
I'VE GOTTA HAVE SOME FUN. ♡

Story † 8 End

GOOD MORNING.
IT'S THE MORNING OF THE FOURTH DAY SINCE I CAME TO THE TWILIGHT MANSION.
chirp chirp
GOOD MORNING.
clack
THIS PLACE...
REALLY IS FULL OF SUCH UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.
GOOD MORNING.

Story ✝ 8.5

An Elegant Morning at the Twilight Mansion

THIS GUY IS TOOMA YATSUMA-SAN.
HE'S THE TWILIGHT MANSION'S COOK.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
AH! NO, PLEASE DON'T MIND ME.
I've pretty much finished, anyway.
BOOM!!
I TRIED BAKING VARIOUS DIFFERENT BREADS TODAY.
THAT'S RIGHT, YUKI-SAN, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS!
This morning I tried making a plate full of northern Italy's famous d shes.
I hope it suits your taste
HE TOOK TONS OF CLASSES IN ITALY, IS A VERY TALENTED COOK,
AND HAS AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF ENTHUSIASM WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING.
THIS OVER HERE IS A SPECIAL TOMATO BREAD I DEVELOPED FOR HOTSUMA-KUN, SINCE HE HATES TOMATOES.
THIS IS FOCACCIA, WHICH I MADE WITH AN ESPECIALLY SPRINGY TEXTURE AND COVERED THE RAW DOUGH WITH PARMESAN CHEESE.
There are various others as well
UWAH, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS.
TO BE EMPLOYED HERE AT THE TWILIGHT MANSION.
IT'S A GREAT HONOR, AS A GIOH,
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE REALLY INTO IT, AREN'T YOU?

NOTHING MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN HAVING EVERYONE EAT MY COOKING.
HE'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC HE'S GETTING CARRIED AWAY...
I'M ITCHING TO PUT MY SKILLS TO USE! TREMBLING TO! BOILING OVER ~~~~~!
FUJIWARA-SENSEI...!
I've already calculated your nutrition for you!!
NHM?
PLEASE HAVE BREAKFAST BEFORE DRINKING THAT! BREAKFAST!!
slurp slurp
sleepy- sluggish
Ahhh...
SENSEI ——!!
So I'll pass on that.
SORRY, I'VE BEEN UP 4 DAYS STRAIGHT AND I'VE GOT NO APPETITE,
ROE FLAVORED OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS.
THEY'RE GOOD
TSUKUMO-KUN!
crunch crunch crunch crunch
WHAT ARE YOU EATING!?
Wanna try?
ROE FLAVORED OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS!? THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE ANY SENSE——!!

Bwaaah!
Uwaaah!
BE RIGHT BACK, I'M GOING TO THE STORE!!
TACHIBANA-SAN, BREAKF—!!
...AH—
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE BREAKFAST, YOU KNOW!
Bump
I'LL HAVE BREAK-FAST.
DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU NOT TO EAT SNACKS BEFORE A MEAL!?
TSUKKUN, THAT'S-!!
AAH!!
YOU BURPED JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU!? BURPED!!
No waaay!
SORRY
WERE THESE YOURS?
DIDN'T YOU!?
YOU ATE MY FAVORITE ROE FLAVORED OCTOPUS BALLS, DIDN'T YOU!?
They prefer snacks over my meals, huh...
E-Err...
Tooma-sa-?
I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN JUST BUY MORE FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE, RIGHT?
AND I WAS REALLY, REEAALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO EATING THOSE ~~~~!!
NO MORE IMPOR-TANTLY BREAK-FAST

Tsukiyama-kun, what about Toko-san...?
SHE'S DIETING, SO SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT BREAKFAST.
And Hotsuma-kun...?
SHUSEI WENT TO SCHOOL AHEAD OF HIM, SO HE PANICKED AND CHASED AFTER HIM
And now no one's left...
whisper
※3rd floor.
Not worthy enough to keep on living, either...
AFTER ALL, I'M JUST—
GRAB
JUST A CLUMSY BLOCKHEAD OF A COOK WHO'S NOT EVEN WORTHY OF HAVING PEOPLE EAT HIS FOOD!!
TOOMA-SAN!!
TOOMA-SAN!!
That's dangerous!!
Th—
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.
THE FOOD YOU MAKE IS REALLY DELICIOUS!
I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO EATING IT...
R-Really...?
REALLY!
RIGHT, LUKA?
YEAH... IT'S GOOD.
L—LUKA-SAN...!
So you're not a scary guy, after all

Hehe
HE'S ONLY RECENTLY GOTTEN TO KNOW JUNK FOOD, AND THAT'S HIS CURRENT FAVORITE. NO OFFENSE INTENDED
LUKA-KUN, NICE ASSIST!
?
Slam
I'M GOING BACK TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE ~~~~!
AAH!
TOOMA-SAN!!
Stomp Stomp Stomp
THAT "INSTANT RAMEN" THING I HAD THE OTHER DAY.
JUST LIKE...
It's just as good.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THIS IS A FORM OF LOVE~
Ah.
His reaction is so cute, we just can't help ourselves. ♥
IT REALLY DOESN'T FEEL LIKE MORNING WITHOUT HEARING KACCHAN GO "I'M GOING BACK TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE," YOU KNOW?
Phew
MY, MY, SUCH A REFRESHING MORNING...
D-Of course! Not eating breakfast would be counterproductive!!
Oh? Toko-chan, you're going to eat breakfast?
I... I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S LOVE...
OOOOH!
THE BREAKFAST LOOKS SUPER DELICIOUS, DOCTOR!
Let's eat quickly!
THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
THIS REALLY IS A PLACE WHERE ALL SORTS OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS LIVE—

Story 85 End

Vampire no Koibito no
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Story 9

Raising the Curtain — Raging of Waves

Uragiri wa
Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
THUD
HAA!
HAH ...!
HAA!
HIDE
HAA!
HAA!
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle

.....
SILENCE
BOOM
rattle
BOOM
BOOM
HAH
..
rattle
rattle
HAA
...
BA
EEK...!

THE VICTIM HAD A WALLET IN HIS POSSESSION.
MANABE MIKO, 30 YEARS OLD.
SEEMS HE WAS A RESIDENT OF CHIBA PREFECTURE.
FROM THE MANAGER'S STORY, NO ONE LEFT ANY VALUABLES HERE,
SO NOTHING WAS LOCKED...
BLEGH!
HMPH ...
SO WHY IS SOMEONE LIKE THAT IN THIS BUILDING IN TOKYO...?
I MEAN, HALF OF HIS FACE... VANISHED.
ATROCIOUS DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COVER IT...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF
IT WAS EATEN BY A MONSTER ...
YEAH ...
THIS CORPSE IS A BIT TOO MUCH FOR A ROOKIE.
THE WAY HE WAS KILLED IS JUST TOO ATRO-CIOUS.

PLACE AN URGENT CALL...
HUH?
WHAT'S MORE, THE ENTRANCE WAS DESTROYED. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMETHING A HUMAN COULD D—
UN-KNOWN ...
—to the Gioh's World End.*
*T/N: The katakana reading is "world end" but the kanji literally means "shield of demise"
HOTSU-MA...
ARE YOU LONELY BE-CAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE FRIENDS...?
I'LL END UP HURTING EVERY-ONE...
THAT SINCE I CAN'T CONTROL MY POWERS ...
THEY SAID...
THAT I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO PEOPLE,
CUZ I HAVE YOU.
NOPE.

IT MAKES ME PROUD ...
THAT YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
CUZ YOU CAN DO ANYTHING,
WELL,
AND YOU'RE REALLY SMART.
WHY ...?
YOU'RE SO AMAZING, SHUSE.
.....BUT... I——————
THE STARS ARE SOOOOOOO PRETTY!
twshh
WHY ARE YOU OPENING THE CURTAINS?
IT'S ALREADY NIGHT.
And I had just closed them
HUH? IT'S BECAUSE IT'S NIGHT.
ISN'T IT WEIRDER TO KEEP THE CURTAINS SHUT?

YOUR AMIABLE EYES, AS FASCINATING AS SPARKLING GEMSTONES.
THOUGH THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NOTICED...
IS ME.
THE TRULY AMAZING ONE IS YOU.
—YES...
I THINK...
chirp
chirp
Ayaaaa

HAVEN'T I ASKED YOU NOT TO WALK AROUND NAKED!?
LECHER! IDIOT!
PERVERT!!
YOU JERK...
IF YOU WEREN'T A GIRL, I'D HAVE SENT YOU FLYING.
And I'm not naked—
WHAT—
WHAT'S WITH HOW YOU'RE DRESSED!?
Hmm?
GO ADD THE WORD "LADYLIKE" TO YOURS!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU!
DO YOU NOT HAVE THE WORD "DELICACY" IN YOUR VOCABULARY!?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DEGENER-ATE!
NOW I CAN'T BE TAKEN AS A BRIDE!
TSU-KUMO!
pok
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION...

Hatsuma... are you going to take responsibility?
FOR WHAT!?
IS YOUR SISTER GONNA GET PREGNANT FROM JUST SEEING A GUY'S BODY!?
AAH!?
NO WAY...! YOU'RE STILL STAYING STUFF LIKE THAT...!!
Youka the worst
YES.
I BELIEVE THAT IS THEIR WAY OF COMMUNICATING.
IT'S EVEN LIVELY IN THE MORNINGS, HUH.
Gya
Gya
I wonder about that...
EXCUSE ME... YUKI-SAN,
LEAN
YOU'VE ALREADY HELPED MORE THAN ENOUGH, SO ~~~...
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT...
No, well...
HUH? BUT I'M FREE ANYWAY.
THE GENTLEMAN BEHIND YOU...
IS MAKING ME INCREDIBLY ANXIOUS...
INTIMIDATING OBSERVER.
Slightly traumatized.

TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE I'VE COME TO THE TWILIGHT MANSION.
WHAT!?
SHUSEI LEFT WITHOUT EATING BREAKFAST AGAIN?!
YES...
THAT BASTARD ...
WHAT THE HELL'S HE THINKING ...!?
DOES SHUSEI-KUN HAVE SOME SORT OF ILLNESS?
I DON'T BELIEVE HE HAS ANY CHRONIC DISEASE.
BUT HE'S NEVER HAD MUCH OF AN APPETITE.
...RATHER THAN LACK OF APPETITE ...
IT SEEMS MORE LIKE...
HE'S NEVER EXPERI-ENCED...
THE ENJOYMENT OF HAVING A MEAL.
Ufu
WHAT'S WITH YOU!? YOU'VE BEEN ANNOYING FOR A WHILE NOW!
Cuz, it seemed like the atmosphere was gonna get serious~
It WAS serious
Grrrrrrr!!

WELL,
THESE SORTS OF THINGS ...
CAN ONLY BE ANSWERED BY ASKING THE PERSON IN QUESTION.
Hmph.
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE, DESPITE COMING FROM YOU.
Rattle
...I'LL MAKE HIM SPILL EVERY-THING.
AH! HOTSUMA-KUN,
HERE... A SAND-WICH.
IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN GIVE IT TO SHUSEI-KUN...
.....
.....
... THANKS.
YUKI-CHAN, WHY DON'T WE START HEADING OUT TOO?
To school
AH, YEAH.
TODAY TOKO-CHAN AND I WILL BE GUARDING YOU.
—YES,

I'M CURRENTLY BEING GUARDED BY THE ALL THE ZWEILTS...
...ON BOTH MY WAY TO SCHOOL AND MY RETURN.
I FEEL KIND OF BAD...
THAT THEY ENDED UP GOING THROUGH SUCH A HASSLE.
It's our duty!
No way— Don't worry about it.
Besides, I'm happy that I get to be with you—
THEN, I'M GOING NOW.
BE CAREFUL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WONDER WHAT LUKA'S DOING AT THE HOUSE.
MOVING ABOUT ACCORDING TO TAKASHIRO-SAMA'S ORDERS, ETC.
Hmmm
...BASICALLY, HOUSE-WATCHING.
House watching
SOMEONE LIKE HIM LURKING AROUND WOULD REALLY STAND OUT, RIGHT?
BUT WHAT IF HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY NEARBY THE SCHOOL AND WATCHING YUKI OR SOMETHING...
Ahaha
NO WAY. THAT'S SO POSSIBLE.
Like a stalker
LUKA'S SUCH A WORRY-WORT.
Ah, but
THE SCHOOL WE GO TO, "IZUMIMARI GAKUEN," HAS DIVINE PROTECTION FROM THE GODDESS OF PROTECTION,
SO IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE.
Don't worry!
Hehe
THAT'S AMAZING.

I WOKE UP A BIT EARLIER THAN USUAL TO DO MY HAIR,
AND I HAD TO PUT ON SOME LIGHT MAKEUP AS WELL...
ALL IN ORDER TO APPEAR EVEN JUST A BIT CUTER...
...THAT'S BECAUSE TODAY ISN'T THE SAME AS MY REGULAR, BORING DAYS.
YAWN
UGH... I'M SO SLEEPY ...
GOT UP TOO EARLY TODAY.
BECAUSE TODAY IS—
GOOD MORNING, YOSHINO-SAN.
tap
AH, GOOD MORNING.
YOUR HAIR LOOKS CUTE.
IS... THAT SO?
THANK YOU.

DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT POP-STARS...
TRUTH IS, I...
NOR DO I HAVE ANY CD I REALLY WANT.
I BOUGHT THEM WITH EVERYONE ELSE,
JUST LIKE I DID WITH MY CELL PHONE STRAP AND NOTEBOOK.
I seen Hak been awesome lately. ♥
WEREN'T YOU A KAN-CHAN FAN?
... YEAH ...
DID YOU BUY KURAISU'S CD?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOSHINO-SAN,
HUH? AH, NOT YET...
THAT'S NO GOOD! YOU'VE GOTTA BUY IT ASAP.
Their initial release is gonna sell out!
Ehhh—

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO BLEND IN WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND CONFIDENTLY WITH A "YES."

IF ASKED WHETHER I TRULY WANTED THEM,

BECAUSE THAT'S...

THE MARK OF "FRIENDSHIP"...

YOU GET ALONG, SO YOU TRY TO BLEND IN ... HOWEVER,

NOBODY WILL CALL ME "SHIORI"...
THEY WON'T CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME.
THOUGH I'M PRETTY SURE...
I UNDERSTAND WHY THAT IS.
I PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE,
SINCE IT'S EASIER THAT WAY.
AH... THAT SCARED ME.
"GIOH" WAS REFERRING TO ME...
YOU STILL AREN'T USED TO THIS SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T WE WALK TOGETHER?
♡
EH .!
You know,
WE HEARD YOU JUST MOVED TO THE FIRST CLASSROOM.
HEY, GIOH-KUN!
HUH ...!?
AH, YES?
GIOH-KUN
GIOH-KUN.

HEY. .
I'M GOING TO THE 2ND YEAR CLASS-ROOM NOW, BUT I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
UNTIL THEN,
DON'T LEAVE THIS SPOT.
!
Wait
Let show you around some other places, too ♥
BUT HE'S ALSO REALLY CUTE.
I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND, THOUGH I MEAN, NOT ONLY DOES HE STAND OUT FOR BEING A TRANSFER STUDENT AT THIS POINT IN THE YEAR,
Uwahh
MIHO AND THEM ARE BEING SUPER PUSHY.
HEY.
AH...
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
Same class.
WHAT'S WITH HIM!?
Hm!?
Hmph
You interfered, you bastard."
Ah,
UM,
RENJOU-KUN!
uu
A weekend.
AH. YUP!
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.
I'LL BE WAITING.
Thanks, Natsuma-kun ♂

WE'RE THE ONES ON DUTY TODAY, RIGHT?
WE HAVE TO GO GET THE JOURNAL ...
AH, THAT'S RIGHT ...
SORRY.
BUT WOULD YOU GO GRAB IT?
I'VE GOT SOME MINOR BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
AH . SURE,
"YOSH NO."
GOT IT.
HE'S GOING TO SEE SHUSEI-KUN...
He's probably worried
GEEZ! WHO DOES RENJOU THINK HE IS!?
REALLY, FOR A GUY, JUST HAVING A GOOD FACE ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
RIGHT, RIGHT
I MEAN, RENJOU'S ALWAYS GLARING AT EVERYONE
It's so scary.
ANYWAY, HE'S NOT NICE TO GIRLS AT ALL.
.....

SOON AFTER ENTERING SCHOOL, DURING P.E.,
BLOOD KYAA!!
WHAT HAPPENED, YOSHINO-SA..
OWW...
...I WONDER WHY EVERYONE DOESN'T NOTICE?
RENJOU-KUN IS ACTUALLY ...VERY KIND.
KYAA!
crack
WHAT HAPPENED?
LOOKS LIKE SHE CUT HERSELF ON A SPIKE.
CAN YOU STAND?
...!
THROB
HEY, THERE'S A LOT OF BLOOD.
IF WE DON'T STOP THE BLEEDING ...
THROB
HEY, DOESN'T ANYONE HAVE A HANDKERCHIEF?
BEFORE THAT, GO GET A TEACHER.
EVERY-ONE...
LOOKS SO WORRIED FOR ME,
THROB
BUT...

EH...
R-RENJOU-KUN?
YOUR J-JACKET ...!
IT'LL GET DIR-
KYAA!
TELL THE TEACHERS I'M TAKING HER TO THE INFIRMARY.
SURE...
CHATTER
S...
CHATTER
DOES IT HURT?
BEAR WITH IT FOR JUST A BIT.

THEY'RE STILL JUST WATCHING...
THROB
I'M NO DIFFERENT...
NO ONE WANTS TO STEP FORWARD AND BURDEN THEMSELVES WITH SOMETHING SO TROUBLESOME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THROB
THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE ARE SO CHEAP ——
THROB
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE!?
STOP THE BLEEDING!!
EH..
BUT...
...RENJOU ...KUN?
TSK.
MOVE IT!!
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW, AND...

BECAUSE OF THE BEATING OF MY HEART,
I MOSTLY FORGOT ABOUT ANY PAIN.
...OKAY...
SINCE THEN,
WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED, BUT...
HE REMEMBERED MY NAME...
PLUS, WE HAVE DUTY TOGETHER.
I'VE NEVER FELT SO THANKFUL THAT I'M "YOSH NO" ...
HE'LL PROBABLY NEVER...
EVEN CONSIDER SOMEONE LIKE ME, BUT...
...BUT I LIKE HIM.
I LOVE RENJOU-KUN.
II - I
!
...

EAT.
Tap
.....
.....
HMPH
AND?
YOU KNOW ...
THIS IS THE 2ND YEAR'S CLASS-ROOM.
LISTEN UP!
YOU MAY BE THE PUBLIC MORALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR WHATEVER,
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD ABOUT MY PUBLIC MORALS FROM A GUY WHO DOESN'T EVEN EAT BREAK-FAST!
FIRST EAT YOUR FOOD!
THEN WORRY ABOUT CHECK'NG OFF THE STUDENTS WHO GOT TO SCHOOL LATE! GOT IT!?
Chuckle
AS USUAL ...
YOU HAVE AN ABSURD WAY OF WORDING THINGS.

THAT YOU WON'T EVEN LET FOOD PASS YOUR LIPS?
I'M ASKING YOU WHAT YOU'RE THINKING SO DEEPLY ABOUT...
WHAT .. ARE YOU THINK-ING?
HUH?
...YOU WON'T GET MAD IF I TELL YOU?
WHY WOULD I GET MAD?
There's nothing to get mad about, anyway
—I WONDER IF YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW...
WHAT I THINK ABOUT IS OBVIOUS.
I THINK ABOUT YOU.

.....
YOU JUST SAID YOU WOULDN'T GET ANGRY.
I WAS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...!
YOU BASTARD! QUIT SCREWIN' AROUND!!!
OBVIOUSLY I'LL GET MAD!!
DON'T THINK YOU'LL TRICK ME BY WORDING STUFF THAT WAY!!
I DON'T WANT TO BE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH THE SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF GIRL-FRIENDS YOU'VE HAD!!
...I'VE ONLY GONE OUT WITH TWO...
"Successive generations"
ding
Aah, shit!
dong
It's the first bell
HEY, WE'LL FINISH THIS CONVERSATION LATER!
OUTTA TIME, HUH...
WAVE WAVE
ANYWAY, EAT THAT SANDWICH!
THE CHEF WENT OUT OF HIS TO MAKE THAT!

No way!
This is such a good looking sandwich!
EH! SERIOUSLY!? I CAN!?
THEN ..
YOU CAN HAVE THIS IF YOU'D LIKE.
AAH, ANDOU.
HEEEY, USUI, WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW?
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
SORRY ...
BUT I REALLY HAVE NO APPETITE ...
What am I going to do with this?
HUNGRY ?
I AM, WHY?
I'm always hungry!
Hey!
THAT BLONDE 1ST YEAR WAS PRETTY CUTE!
NHM... BUT HE CAN'T BEAT USUI-KUN.
WHAT'S THEIR RELATIONSHIP? HE SEEMED SO CLOSE TO THAT USUI-KUN.
Mr Lor-ding
OH, HE'S..
I HEARD THEY'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
He's pretty famous.
HEH.♡ THAT'S SO NICE.
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO USUI-KUN LIKE THAT, TOO.

THE MURDER VICTIM, MANABE MIKIO, WAS A TEACHER AT TORITSU S HIGH SCHOOL.
FIVE DAYS AGO, THE FAMILY REQUESTED A MISSING PERSON INVESTIGATION.
IT SEEMS HE VANISHED ALL OF A SUDDEN, NOT TAKING A WALLET OR ANY OTHER BELONGINGS.
NO REASON WAS FOUND FOR HIM TO GO INTO HIDING, EITHER...
GLANCE
...WHAT'S THE MATTER?
PLEASE CONTINUE.
OF THOSE, 7 HAVE BEEN MALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.
AT LEAST 8 PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL CITY AREA ALONE.
FOR THE PAST 2 WEEKS, PEOPLE HAVE GONE MISSING, ONE AFTER THE OTHER IN A SIMILAR MANNER.
THEN THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD.
AH... YES!

BUT WE CAN'T FIND ANYTHING LINKING THE 7 VICTIMS.
THE SCHOOLS THEY'RE FROM AND WHICH YEAR THEY'RE IN ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
IS THAT SO.
HOWEVER, MANABE-SAN WAS A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER,
CURRENTLY, THERE ARE 9 PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T WOKEN UP.
SO THE KEY WORD HERE MAY BE "HIGH SCHOOL."
UM...
SPEAKING OF "HIGH SCHOOL,"
THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY SYNDROME" IS WORRISOME.
THOUGH THE CAUSE IS RUMORED TO BE SOME UNKNOWN ILLNESS OR EVEN MASS HYPNOSIS...
Hey now!
THE MEDIA HAS BEEN GOING CRAZY OVER IT,
BUT ISN'T THAT JUST SOME DISEASE?
—WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT ALL THE VICTIMS ARE FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THE METROPOLITAN AREA.
AH, YES.
IT'S SAID THAT ONE DAY, A PERSON WHO WAS THE EPITOME OF HEALTH...
JUST GOES TO SLEEP AND NEVER OPENS THEIR EYES AGAIN.
THIS HAS ALSO HAPPENED WITHIN THE PAST 2 WEEKS.

IBUKI, BRING SHUSEI AND TSUKUMO HERE.
.....
UNDER-STOOD
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT REALLY IS A CASE INVOLVING UNKNOWNS, RIGHT?
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
FIRST, LET'S SEARCH FOR A PERPETRATOR AND OUR MISS-ING PERSONS.
I'VE CALLED IN AN EXPERT...
AT SEARCHING FOR LOST ITEMS.

CHIME
CHIME
LATER!
BYE-BYE
SO A DIFFERENT KNIGHT IS GOING TO TAKE OUR PLACE AND PICK YOU UP.
WAIT IN FRONT OF THE GATE, OK?
KNIGHT?
AND TSUKUMO AND I AREN'T COMPLETE UNLESS WE'RE BOTH TOGETHER...
TSUKUMO CAN'T BE YOUR GUARD SINCE HE HAS SOME WORK TO DO.
HMM...
YOU KNOW,
THE KNIGHT IS COMING, SO...
squeal
Err, that's probably...
click
Amazing!
I WONDER WHO'S GETTING PICKED UP.
WHO IS IT? WHO'S DRIVING IT?
CHATTER
UWAH!
AWESOME! IT'S A HIGH-CLASS FOREIGN CAR!

PAMPAS
What is it?
Sure are a lot of people, huh
Entranced

TURN!
UGH...
LU...
LUKA.
YUKI...!
chatter
SO HOT And pretty"!!
KYAA~!
NO WAY! HE'S SO COOL...!
WHO IS IT? IS IT SOMEONE FAMOUS?
chatter
He strikes out, as usual
SO IT IS LUKA...
chatter
chatter
HE SAID, "YOU'D STAND OUT IF YOU WALKED BACK AS USUAL, SO TAKE THIS."
TAKASHIRO-SAN, IT HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT..."
It's never ending.
AH... T-THAT'S TRUE.
I'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
THANK YOU. . ERR, WHOSE CAR IS THAT?
OH, TAKA-SHIRO'S.
LICENSE ...?
SO, YOU HAD A DRIVER'S LICENSE, HUH.

*T/N. Yuki uses the Japanese term, but Luka uses the English loan word for license.
...OH, IF IT'S A "RAISENSU"* OR WHATEVER,
THEN TAKASHIRO GOT ONE FOR ME FROM SOMEWHERE.
UMM, UMM, UMM...!
YUKI...
So I'm sure it'll be OK!
The driving ability of a duras must be on a different level.
Ah, that's right
Surely...
PERHAPS I...
HUH?
HOW?
NO, IT'S... JUST NOW A LOT OF PEOPLE GATHERED,
AND YOU HAD A TROUBLED LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
CAUSED YOU TROUBLE ...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID THAT WAS WRONG.
SORRY... IT, IT SEEMS MY COMMON SENSE IS SOMEWHAT LACKING!..
.....
AH... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN, HUH?
"PRETTY" ISN'T REALLY A WORD USED TO DESCRIBE MEN...
THE REASON EVERYONE GATHERED WAS BECAUSE...
YOU'RE SO PRETTY!
you didn't do anything wrong
AH... THAT'S NOT IT.
IT WASN'T THAT YOU DID ANYTHING WRONG...

HUH?
AREN'T YOU...
.. ERR...
SINCE I'M A "DURAS."
AFRAID OF ME...?
AREN'T YOU...
DOES HE WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT...?
.. NOPE, NOT AT ALL.
I HAVEN'T EVER.. THOUGHT OF YOU AS SCARY.
.... HUH?
IS THAT SO...
AH.
HE SMILED.
WONDERING IF BEING WITH YOU CAUSES THE OTHER PERSON PAIN...
HE'S INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM A HUMAN, HUH.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE,
WORRYING ABOUT SUCH THINGS...

WHICH REMINDS ME,
I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED ANY OF THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS...
YUKI?
...I WONDER WHY LUKA STAYS WITH ME?
ISN'T IT PAINFUL TO BE WITH ME?
TO THE POINT OF BEING PATHETIC.
I WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME...
IF THE PERSON IN QUESTION WAS SOMEONE YOU LIKED, THEN YOU'D WANT TO REAFF RM THOSE FEELINGS EVEN MORE.
YEAH...THE STRENGTH OF THE GUARDIANS IS PRETTY POWERFUL.
THAT REGULAR DURAS CAN'T APPROACH IT, OR SOMETHING...
UM... I HEARD THAT MY SCHOOL'S SPECIAL,
...IS THE REASON YOU'RE ALL RIGHT BECAUSE YOU HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF MAGICAL POWER..?
CONTRACTOR...?
YEAH.
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE MY MASTER.
...IT'S LIKELY BECAUSE...
YOU'RE MY CONTRACTOR, YUKI.

HUH? "MASTER" ...?
HANG TIGHT, YUKI!
HUH ..?
WAH!?
DURAS !!?
BOOM
Squeal
Squeal
Squeal
Squeal
SKREECH
WE'RE DITCHING THE CAR!!
LUKA!
RUN!
BOOM

...!
ARE YOU OK...
YUKI?
I-I'M FINE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ABOUT YOU...?
I completely pinned you
I-I'M FINE! REALLY ...
SINCE YOU COVERED ME.
FORGET ABOUT ME...
YOU'RE NOT INJURED, RIGHT?
DOES IT HURT ANYWHERE?
LUKA...
IS THAT SO...
IS, SO, INCREDIBLY CONCERNED ...
HIS EXPRESSION...
CLICK

I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET IT RIGHT NEXT TIME.
Hmph.
SEEMS YOU'RE PRETTY HARD TO KILL, HUH?
Ah—Ah.
ANSHI
DURAS...
HEY, YOU'RE GIOH YUKI, RIGHT?
AND IN SUCH HUGE NUMBERS—!!

Story+9 End

Vampire no Koibito no
Hanayome Shishou
www.stormindheaven.net

Story 10
"BRAND ZESS,"
THE CARVED SEAL CARRIED BY THE CLAN OF SINNERS.
AMONG THOSE,
THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO CARRIES A RED SEAL — THE BLOODY CROSS.
HE IS THE ONE LOVED BY THE DEMON KING.
MAGICAL POWER THAT SURPASSES THE REST, COLDHEARTED AND RUTHLESS,
HIS EYES ARE BLADES, AND HIS HAIR THE NIGHT.
HIS SHAPE AND FORM ARE FRIGHTENING AND YET BEAUTIFUL.
HIS NAME IS —

Story†10 Brand Zero

▶皆さまこんにちは。首の皮1枚でつながってる感のある「裏僕」ですが、作者の心配をヨソにこうして2巻を出すことができました。皆さまのご声援のおかげです！ 有難うございます（もし「2巻から読んでるよ」とか、「借りて読んでるよ」なんて方がいらっしゃったら、今スグ書店へGo!ですヨ）。

▶ときに‥本誌の連載のほうでは、ただ今緊迫した状況のお話を描いていまして…精神的に実はちょっとギリギリです。「おお、私ってキャラクターの精神状態とか、もろに引っかぶる人間だったのか」と、認識（遅）。

ついでにいろんな方に迷惑をかけてしまうので、ホントもうどうにかしたいんだけど、どうにもならない不甲斐なさ（…）。

当然一番の被害者は担当さんで‥いつもおろおろさせてしまう私を許して下さい（涙）。う〜ん‥もっと頑張んないとですね、小田切。

そんなあすか本誌ですが、ちょうど今発売している号（5月売り）を買うと、ルカの特大ポスターが付録でついてきちゃう（ハズ）ので、お買い得デス（笑）。頑張って描き下ろしです♡ ふふ…。

あ、1巻のアトガキで夕月の仲間はどんどん増えると書いたものの、いっこーに新キャラ出せてません……。待機はしてるんですけどね,待機は。本編に直接関係ナイ、小ネタなども、ページの都合でさくさくっとカットしているのに、描けども描けども進まない…いいえッ。なるべく丁寧に物語を追いたいので、これでよいのです。うん。

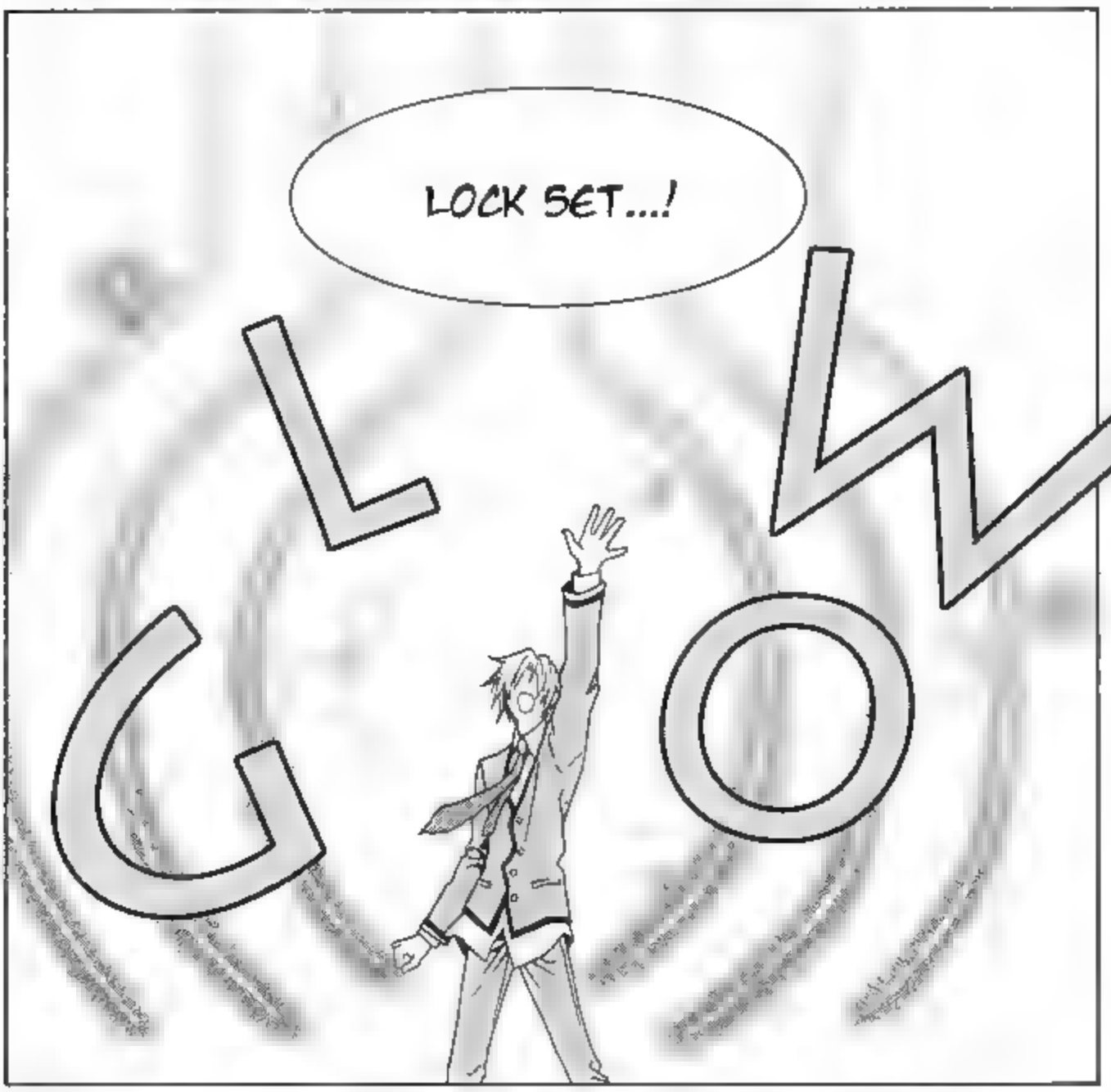
…というわけで、今から雑誌を読んで頂くと、新キャラ登場に間に合います…(CM)♡

とはいえ、カットしている小ネタも描けないのは辛し…ですので、スキをみて描いてゆきます。この本の描き下ろしみたいにね。息抜きです。

▶そして、一部の皆さんに早く描けとせっつかれている、夕月とルカの出逢い…『過去編』ですが、もちろんいつか描きたいなと思ってますので待ってて下さい（連載が続けばですけど）。今現在私が提示してる夕月のプロフィールでは満足しないでですね、お手紙で「夕月は一体何者ですか?」と訊かれた時は、ちょっとドキッと致しました。イイトコついてるなぁ…。

前回 アトガキのほにゃ猫とブラック鬼が意外なほど好評だったので（それもどうよ…）ついまた描いてしまったです。 何故帰し上げにあっているかは巻末の描き下ろしまんがを読もう（笑）

WOOM
SEVER THIS SPACE,


LOCK SET...!
GLOW

FWISH
IT WORKED!
I DID IT...!
R—
RETREAT ...!
NO, PUT UP A SHIELD—
THAT GUY IN BLACK ...
HE'S GOING TO USE SORCERY!!
POOOAR
THERE'S ONLY A SINGLE ZWEILT OVER THERE...
WHO CARES? WE JUST GOTTA DEFEAT 'EM.
HOW LAME, HE RAISED A BARRIER.
HEY!

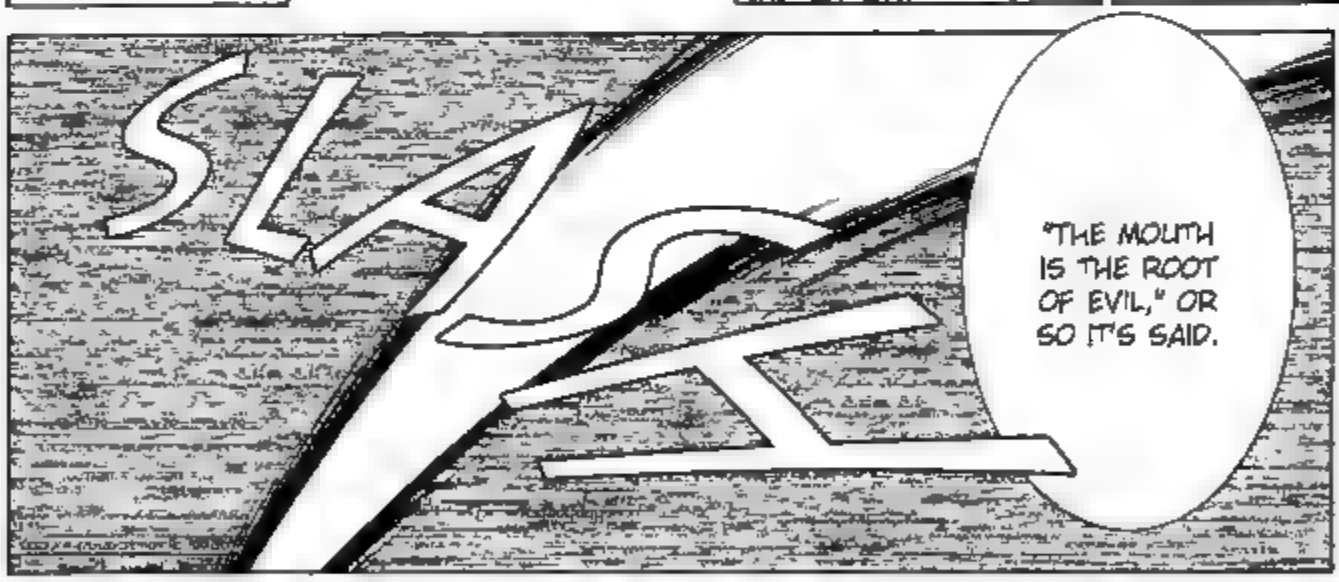
YOU TOOK TOO LONG...
ANNIHILATE.
SFX: BOOM
SCR
UGH ...!!
Shhhhh

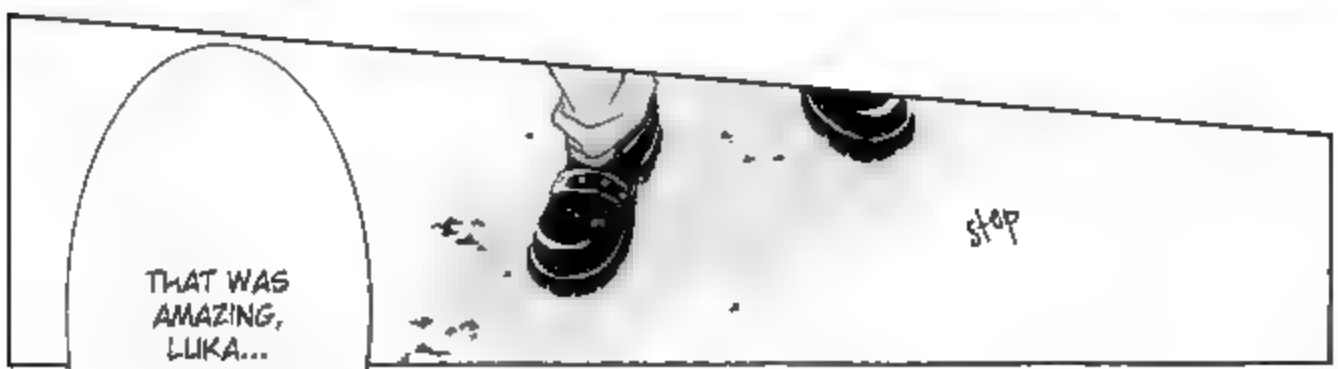
Ha!
HE TOOK OUT ALL THE RANK 'A' DEMON BEASTS ...!!
HIGH GRADE SORCERY ...!?
NO WAY —
Haa!
Haa!
UWAAAAAH!!
GARIKA, ISIS...!
Turn
ALL OF THEM, IN JUST AN INSTANT—!!
...YOU CHEAP BASTARD, USING A SURPRISE ATTACK...!!
BRASH, PARKS!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
ATTACKING US WITH THAT HUGE AN ADVANTAGE IN NUMBERS,
CHEAP?

ATTACK BEFORE YOU'RE ATTACKED.
IT'S THE INVIOLABLE RULE OF BATTLE.
LOGIC DOESN'T HOLD HERE.
HAVE YOU EVER EVEN STEPPED FOOT ON A REAL BATTLEFIELD,
BOY?
YOU SON OF A...
FWOOSH
DIE!!
CHARGE
blink

LUKA—
CROSSZERIA ...!?
"HIS EYES ARE BLADES, AND HIS HAIR THE NIGHT."
"SUPREME MAGICAL POWER,"
"THE PROOF OF THE ONE LOVED BY THE DEMON KING."
IF YOU DON'T ASSESS YOUR OPPONENT'S STRENGTH PRIOR TO CHARGING IN,
YOU'LL ONLY RUSH TO YOUR DEATH.
THAT CARVED SEAL...
IT CAN'T BE...
KRSSHH
SHUDDER
YOU ...
WHAT ARE YOU ...!?
YOU CHOSE THE WRONG OPPONENT.
Cough
Choke

Clank
YOU...
WON'T SURVIVE LONG, NO MATTER WHAT PATH YOU TAKE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A SCRAP OF PRIDE, YOU PATHETIC DOG...!
SUCKING UP TO THOSE DAMN HUMANS ...
IT RUNS IN YOUR BLOOD!!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE FROM THE CLAN OF SINNERS!
S...
SO IT WAS YOU!?
THE TRAITOR WHO LEFT US TO SIDE WITH THE HUMANS.


SLASH
"THE MOUTH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL," OR SO IT'S SAID.

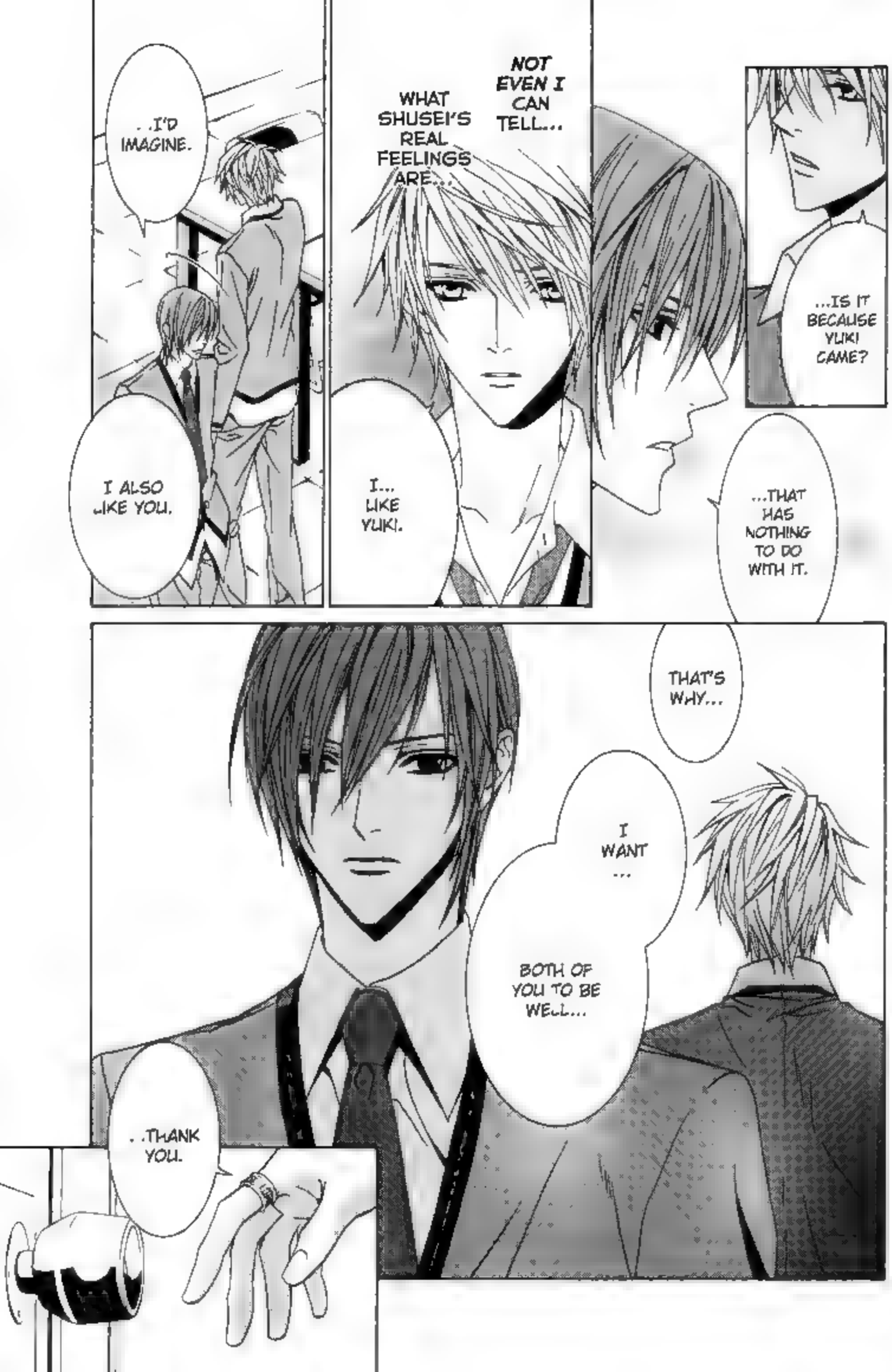

step
THAT WAS AMAZING, LUKA...

.....
IF THERE'S A HUMAN HOSTAGE, THOUGH,
THEN IT CAN BECOME A BIT TROUBLE-SOME...
It someone like Tsukumo isn't around
IT WAS OVER BEFORE I KNEW IT.
IT'S ALL THE SAME NO MATTER HOW MANY MIDVILNS THERE ARE...
I REALLY AM...
SCARY, AREN'T I?
"HAVE YOU EVER EVEN.. STEPPED FOOT ON A REAL BATTLE-FIELD?"
.. YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL.
I'M SORRY THAT ALL I CAN GIVE YOU ARE THOSE PRETTY WORDS...

YEAH
FROM THE TIME I WAS BORN.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS ...
FOUGHT LIKE THIS?
WITHOUT LOSING THEIR INNOCENCE.
Reach
THANK YOU. .
FOR PROTECT-ING ME AGAIN.
glow
I'M SURE EVERYONE...
WOULD PREFER TO LIVE THEIR LIVES...
ABOUT HALF THE POPULATION IS SOLDIERS,
AND ONLY THOSE WITH STRONG MAGICAL POWER STAND AT THE TOP— AND SURVIVE.
INFERNUS ..
IS ONE BIG BATTLEFIELD.
THERE IS NO ONE WHO WOULD HESITATE... TO KILL.
ALL THOSE WHO BLOCK YOUR WAY...
ARE ENEMIES.

"BRAND" REFERS TO THE CARVED SEAL.
...THIS CARVED SEAL—
IT'S CALLED "BRAND ZESS"...
"ZESS" MEANS "SINNER."
S—SLAVE...!?
ON THE SURFACE IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS A BODY-GUARD ACCOMPANYING MY MASTER.
BUT I'D DO ANYTHING IF HE GAVE THE ORDER...
WERE YOU ALSO A SOLDIER, LUKA?
No, I...
THAT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN I GOT FROM THE "HELL" I'VE READ IN BOOKS.
Thank you.
It's healed.
SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I WAS A SLAVE.
I WAS JUST PROPERTY.
WHY...
WERE YOU...?
HE SAYS IT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL—

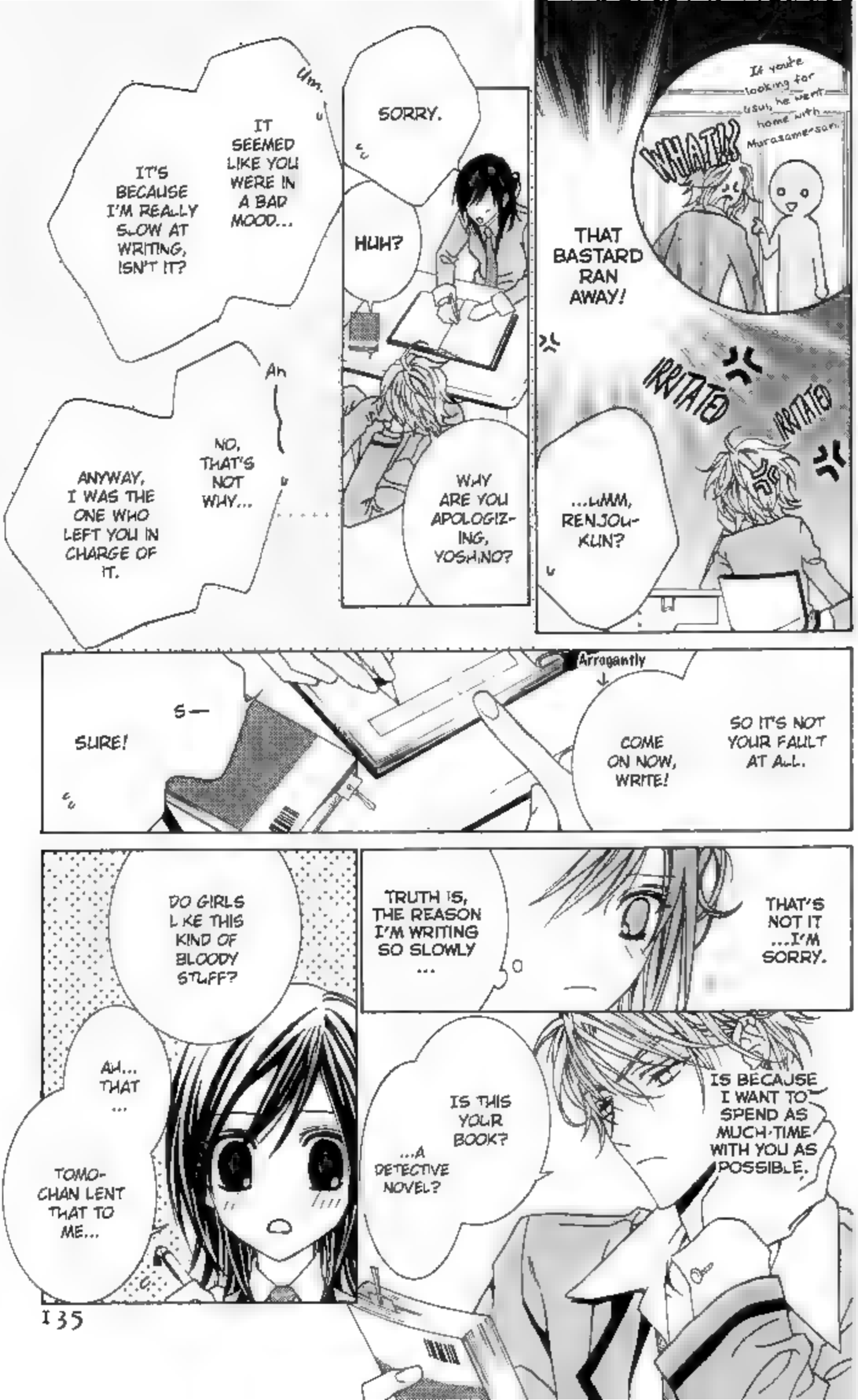
FROM THE TIME WE'RE BORN, WE ARE TREATED AS CRIMINALS.
IN MY CLAN..
THE CROSSZERIA CLAN,
EVERYONE HAS THIS CARVED INTO THEM RIGHT AFTER BIRTH.
TAKASHIRO-SAMA'S CALLING FOR YOU...
YEAH, I'M GOING.
SHUSEI,
...ARE YOU OK?
OK? WHY DO YOU ASK?
...BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL...


..I'D IMAGINE.
I ALSO LIKE YOU.
WHAT SHUSEI'S REAL FEELINGS ARE...
NOT EVEN I CAN TELL...
I... LIKE YUKI.
...IS IT BECAUSE YUKI CAME?
...THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THAT'S WHY...
I WANT ...
BOTH OF YOU TO BE WELL...
..THANK YOU.

WOULD HE BE ABLE TO SAVE SHISEI'S "HEART"...?
SHUSEI.
drop drop
↑Chocolate.
TAKE THIS...
SQUEEZE
...what for...?
—I WONDER, IF IT WERE YUKI,
—CRI-MINA-S...
FROM THE TIME OF BIRTH...
WHY...?
LONG, LONG AGO—
MY ANCESTOR COMMITTED A SERIOUS CRIME.
—THAT SERIOUS CRIME...
WAS TO SELL THE NAMES OF HIS BRETHREN OVER TO HUMANS!!!

That.
THAT'S ALL...!?
FOR A DURAS, HAVING YOUR NAME KNOWN...
IS THE SAME AS HAVING YOUR FREEDOM STOLEN AND BEING ENSLAVED.
THAT'S WHY ALIASES ARE COMMONLY USED.
YOUR REAL NAME IS KNOWN ONLY TO YOURSELF AND...
YOUR CONTRAC-TOR.
NOT EVEN OUR PARENTS KNOW.
THE TREACHEROUS CROSSZERIA CLAN MUST BE PUNISHED!!
PUNISH THEIR OFFSPRING, AND THEIR DESCENDENTS FOR ALL ETERNITY—!!
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL THEM!!
BUT EVEN SO... TO FORCE THE ATONEMENT ON THE DESCEN-DENTS...
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR...!
YOJ POINTED IT OUT TO ME, YUKI...
—NOT UNTIL...
YEAH, WEL...
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY.

WILL NEVER GO AWAY...
SINCE THIS TRAITOR'S SCAR...
NOTHING REALLY MATTERED TO ME...
TO ME, THAT WAS LIFE.
—LIFE—
...
IT WAS SIMPLY REALITY AS I KNEW IT.
MEANT
LITTLE,
WITHOUT A GOAL,
WITHOUT MEANING—
I – VII
RUFFLE
DAMNIT!
SHUSEI, YOU BASTARD ...!


Um.
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE IN A BAD MOOD...
IT'S BECAUSE I'M REALLY SLOW AT WRITING, ISN'T IT?
SORRY.
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING, YOSHINO?
Ah
NO, THAT'S NOT WHY...
ANYWAY, I WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT YOU IN CHARGE OF IT.
If you're looking for Usui, he went home with Murasame-san.
WHAT!?
THAT BASTARD RAN AWAY!
IRRITATED
IRRITATED
...UMM, RENJOU-KUN?
Arrogantly
S—
SURE!
COME ON NOW, WRITE!
SO IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL.
DO GIRLS LIKE THIS KIND OF BLOODY STUFF?
AH... THAT ...
TOMO-CHAN LENT THAT TO ME...
TRUTH IS, THE REASON I'M WRITING SO SLOWLY ...
THAT'S NOT IT ...I'M SORRY.
IS THIS YOUR BOOK?
...A DETECTIVE NOVEL?
IS BECAUSE I WANT TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH YOU AS POSSIBLE.

IF I DON'T, I'LL BE LEFT BEHIND, YOU KNOW?
No. MORE LIKE.
YOU'RE READING IT CUZ YOU WANT TO, RIGHT?
BECAUSE "IT'S POPULAR"?
IT'S POPULAR, SO I SHOULD TRY READING IT TOO...
So I was told
NOT... REALLY.
Hmm
BUT YOU ALSO LIKE IT, RIGHT, YOSHINO?
YOU'RE READING IT BECAUSE IT'S POPULAR AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GET LEFT BEHIND?
SO, EVEN THOUGH IT'S A BOOK YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE,
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
IT'S CRAZY OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD.
TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH EVERYONE LIKE THAT ...
W... WHAT DO YOU MEA——
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'RE GONNA WEAR OUT SOMEDAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN OPINIONS?
DO YOU WANT IT THAT BADLY?
TO HAVE THE SAME DESIRES AS EVERYONE ELSE?

throb
.....
I..
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, RENJOU-KUN...!
I'M NOT PUSHING MYSELF TOO HARD, AND EVERYTHING'S GOING FINE THE WAY IT IS.
EVERYONE GETS ALONG WITH ME THE WAY IT IS...!
WELL ...
WHATEVER, THEN.
PUTTING MYSELF OUT THERE,
FROM THE BEGINNING...
MAKING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHO I REALLY AM...
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN PUSHING MYSELF TOO HARD.

YUKI.
IF WE DON'T HURRY AND GET BACK—...
Achoo!
HUH?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
...
IT'S ALREADY ...
DUSK, HUH.
Wan.
I—I'M FINE.
YOU'RE WEARING THINNER CLOTHES THAN I AM.
CLAP
I CAN CONTROL MY BODY TEMPERATURE.
Is
Is that so
YOU REVEALED YOUR NAME TO EVERYONE...
Is that ok?
—AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH...
Yeah.
IT'S FINE.
MY FULL ONE IS MUCH LONGER.
Name
I'VE LEFT MY FULL NAME IN YOUR CARE.

EEH ...!?
REALLY?
When?
...IN A PAST LIFE...
SINCE YOU MADE A CONTRACT WITH ME ON TOP OF AN ESTABLISHED CONTRACT.
YES.
IF NOT, AS A RESULT OF BEING IN BREACH OF THE CONTRACT MADE WITH THE FORMER CONTRACTOR,
I WOULD'VE DIED LONG AGO.
AH...
THAT'S RIGHT, A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
YOU SAID I'M YOUR CURRENT MASTER...
THE RESULT OF HAVING YOU BECOME MY NEW MASTER...
WAS THE FORCEFUL ANNULMENT OF THE PREVIOUS CONTRACT.
OF COURSE ...
I CAN'T SAY IT WAS A COMPLETE ANNUL-MENT...
...NOT AS LONG AS...
MY ARM CARRIES THE BLOODY CROSS —
"LUKA"...
"MY CUTE
LUKA."

LUKA ...?
WHAT'S WRON—..
"DON'T WORRY.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PAIN—"
"ALWAYS REMEMBER...
YOU ARE MINE..."
...UH.
"HOW ABOUT I DYE YOUR BRAND ZESS?"
A BLOOD SEAL IS THE SYMBOL ... OF "CONTROL" AND "POSSESSION" —
HE... WHEN THE CONTRACT WAS MADE...
HE PUT HIS BLOOD IN ME...!
"WE'LL SEAL THIS SPECIAL CONTRACT WITH MY BLOOD—"
NOT COMPLETE ...?
YEAH ..

EVERY STRAND OF HAIR.
EVERY DROP OF BLOOD.
BOMP
ugh...
Ah...!
COLLAPSE
LUKA!?
LUKA,
STOP...!
WILL I NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE TH S CURSE --- ?
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO THROW UP.
Shit
LUKA...!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, LUKA.
BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU.
...YUKI. ?
YEAH.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT,
BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU.
...YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. NOW...

THIS...
IS WHERE I BELONG.
SORRY..
I'M FINE NOW.
YEAH.
LUKA—
UMM, YOU KNOW...
JUST NOW... THAT WAS... KINDA
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TALK ABOUT IT
Eh?
I'm
More like
FOR NOW, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT,
...YOU'RE TAKING THIS WELL...
AND THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT
I'M SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS I STILL DON'T KNOW.
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD SAY...?
BUT I JUST CAN'T FIND THE WORDS—
I wonder if he'll let me heal his wounds, ?

AN EXISTENCE,
THAT BY JUST BEING HERE,
MAKES EVEN THE AIR FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN PURIFIED.
I TOLD YOU.
THE REASON I'M ABLE TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THIS IS THANKS TO YOU.
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WERE HERE, YUK..
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
HUH?
—AH...
THE NEW CONTRACTOR.
I WILL... NEVER BETRAY YOU,
MASTER.
.....
—SO, THAT'S IT...

I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD.
THE REASON LUKA'S SO DEVOTED TO ME,
AND THE REASON HE ALWAYS SAYS HE "WON'T BETRAY ME"——
I'M HIS MASTER,
AND WE HAVE A CONTRACT, THAT'S WHY.
WHY DO I FEEL SO DISAPPOINTED ...?
AAH, NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE——
HMM ...?
BUT, WHAT'S THIS...
Hm?
HEH,
SO YOU GUYS CAME BACK BY FOOT?
I thought you were taking a while.
this WHAT?
OF COURSE, YOUR LOVE KNIGHT WOULDN'T LET YOU GET SCRATCHED.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU GUYS ARE ALL RIGHT.
TO START, PLEASE UNDRESS.
BUT, SINCE WE'RE HERE, WHY DON'T I CONDUCT A MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION?
Hands off, you pervert...!
OK, EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL.
Though your uniform got a bit dirty.

I'M FINE.
I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH THE ROAD THAT GOT DESTROYED.
AND TAKASHIRO'S CAR EVEN GOT TOTALED...
NO WORRIES, NONE!!
THE COMMANDER'S GOT LIKE 10, 20 CARS, SO IT'S FINE!
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE SO BRAVE, AREN'T YOU!? ♡
IT'S LOVE! LOVE!!
Bastard ...!
Everything you do pisses me off...!!
Ahhh! grind grind grind
STOP, PLEASE STOP, YOUR MAJESTY THE QUEEEEN
...It's hopeless
He still doesn't understand that he's joking around he keeps going after him...
They always lose it
Who the hell's the queen!?
I'm joking
Hey, hey.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT.
knock knock
um...
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTRUDING WHILE YOU'RE BUSY.
HAVE YOU GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH HOTSUMA-SAMA YET...?
Not yet, pyon! ♣
I've been playing with Luka-kun ♥

EH...
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HOTSUMA-KUN?
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE SHUSEI AND THE MURASAME SIBLINGS...
ARE WITH THE COMMANDER,
AND HOTSUMA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T CHECKED IN.
He's missing...?

Story†10 End

Vampire no Koibito no
Hana - Shishou
www.stormindevil.org

Story 11 Scar

HE WALKS FAST...!
I ENDED UP FOLLOWING AFTER RENJOU-KUN.
WHAT RENJOU-KUN SAID IS REALLY BOTHERING ME...
IT WAS ALMOST CRUEL.
BUT I HAVE A FEELING I WAS TOLD SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT...
YOU ALONE, SWEETIE?
EEK!
HEY THERE!
IT'S NOT SAFE FOR A GIRL TO BE OUT WALKING ALONE AT THIS HOUR.
glance
I WANT TO TALK TO HIM SOME MORE—
I THOUGHT HE'D ENTERED SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...

WHAT THE HELL!?
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
R... RENJOU-KUN...!
...YOU SHOULD LET HER GO.
YOU TRYING TO SHOW OFF!?
WE'LL WALK WITH YOU.
NO, WAIT...
LET'S GO, C'MON.
LET ME GO!
HM?
IT'S SUCH A PAIN
HAAAA—
I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO BUTT IN.
Shock
GLARE
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE, ONCE I SAW YOU GUYS.

Tch
ARROGANT BASTARD!
LET'S SETTLE THIS RIGHT HERE.
Go get some more guys.
I DON'T KEEP TRACK OF EVERY LITTLE THING.
WHO KNOWS?
HEY. . SHE SAID RENJOU...
And he's a blond
YEAH...
I HEARD YOU TOOK CARE OF OUR BUDDIES BEFORE.
HEY, YOU—

WH... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME...!
OH NO, I'M SCARED...!

YEAH, HE WANDERS AROUND.
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
HE GOES OUT AT NIGHT OFTEN ENOUGH.
OH, NOT REALLY

HOTSUMA-KUN IS MISSING?

I'LL FEEL BETTER JUST KNOWING WHERE HE IS.
—THEN I WON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL CALL WHEN I FIND HIM!
I—I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM!
WHAT !?
THERE'S AN ARCADE AROUND THERE.
I BET HE GOT INTO A FIGHT OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
LUKA, WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
R—REINS ..?
?
THE GUY THAT HOLDS THE REIGNS TO THAT HORSE SN'T AROUND.
EVEN IF YOU FIND HIM, HE WON'T LISTEN TO YOU.
I MEAN SHUSEI.
HE'S SUCH A GOOD BOY.
Nothing like you
Didn't he just get back?
THAT GUY NEVER STANDS STILL.
click

MORE AND MORE IDIOTS KEEP SHOWING UP.
THOUGH IT'D BE EASY IF I USED MY POWER...
WE AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO SLIP AWAY WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE.
I'LL DEAL WITH THESE GUYS.
GET GOING.
EEK!
PUSH
B...
BUT!
HURRY!
IT'S FINE, JUST GO!

Hmph.
NOT GOING TO TAKE ON A HOPELESS FIGHT, HUH?
NOW ISN'T THIS EASIER?
GET OUTSIDE.
I WON'T USE MY POWER.
—I SWEAR I WON'T.
SOME-ONE...!
SOMEONE...
Turn
HEY, IS THAT ALRIGHT?
WE CAN'T HAVE HER CALLING FOR HELP
...QUIT COMPLAINING SO MUCH.
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME.
I'M NOT GOING TO STOP YOU.

THE ARCADE'S AROUND HERE.
LOOK AT THE CROWDS ..
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM?
Wait a minute.
YUKI.
COME OUT, SODOM.
I HAD HIM GET HOTSUMA'S SCENT EARLIER.
IF HE'S AROUND HERE, SODOM WILL BE ABLE TO FIND HIM.
float
King of Beasts.
Regular people can't see him.
...THAT'S A PRETTY OLD-SCHOOL WAY OF DOING IT...
WOW!
THE ENERGY-SAVER FORM CAN BE SUMMONED SO EASILY! ♫
Energy-Saver form?
Isuzu-sensei talked about it
Hi there!
GIOH-KUN!?
HUH?
YOSHINO-SA...
HELP ME!
PLEASE!
fwump

RENJOU-KUN, HE'S—
O—OVER THERE!
HE GOT INTO A FIGHT IN AN ARCADE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
GOT IT.
DON'T WORRY, LET ME HANDLE IT.
AH, I'LL HELP TOO..
YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
...YOU CAN GET HOME BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
HOTSUMA-KUN?
WHERE IS HE!?
S...
SURE ..
...WHO'S HE?
Slam
HEY!!

WHAT-EVER
HEY WAIT, THIS IS BIG YOU FAN?
WHAT IF HE CRUMBS?
WHY'S HE JUST TAKING THE BEATING?
GAH..
N... NO.
I CAN'T... LET MYSELF RETALIATE.
IN THIS STATE, THERE'S NO WAY. .
I'D BE ABLE TO CONTROL MY POWER.
I CAN'T.
STUPI
JUICY
ENOUGH

!?
fwsh
I CAN'T!
HEY, WHO'RE YOU!?
...?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WH— WHAT THE HELL!?
I CAN'T HATE ANYONE—!!
—YUKI!
WHY'RE YOU...
I CAME TO MEET UP WITH YOU. ARE YOU OKAY?
CHATTER
MEET UP...?
PLEASE STOP THIS,
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR.

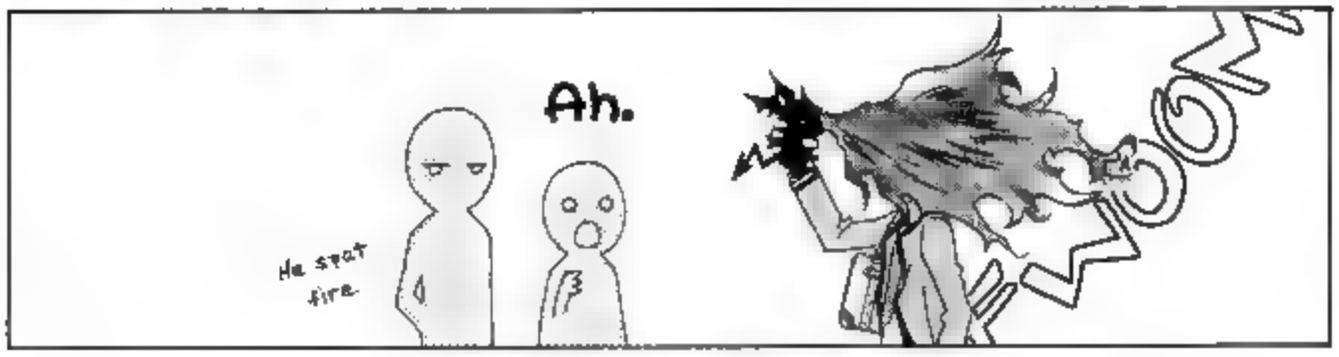
GRAB
OWW!
PLEASE SETTLE DOWN!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE.
WHAT A MESS! LET'S FINISH THIS!
HEY!
HOW DARE YOU...
WHO ASKED YOU TO HELP!
I'M SORRY!
I WAS BEING GOOD AND CONTROLLING MYSELF, AND NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER! NOT A BIT!
LISTEN WHEN I'M TALKING!
SHIT...
ATTACK ALL AT ONCE!
...IS HE FOR REAL?
That nice-guy routine
I can't help it, it's all instinct!
Eek
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE
SO PLEASE STOP...
COUGH!
SLAM
THUD
...LIKE I SAID...

snip
BAS-TARD ...!
EEK...
Y—YOU CAUGHT IT...!?
MUST GO EASY. MUST GO EASY.
Ahhh!
sneak
STOMP
grin
WHERE'RE YOU HEADED OFF TO?
LEAVING THEM BEHIND?
Karma's a bitch.
Yeah!
WHAM

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
HEY.
STEP
WHY DID HOTSUMA-KUN...
PUT UP WITH ALL THAT WITHOUT RESISTING?
...I'M FINE NOW.
YOU GUYS HEAD BACK.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
BUT...
...I...
LIKE YOU, HOTSUMA-KUN.
...HUH?
YOU'RE KIND TO ME...
LISTEN, YOU!
NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND ME, RIGHT!?
FIGURE THAT OUT ALREADY,
YOU SOFTIE!!
You just get yelled at!

...ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
WHEN WAS I KIND!?
HM?
OH, I GET IT
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED IT YOURSELF.
THE FORM THAT KINDNESS TAKES...
IS DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
IF...
A PERSON'S KINDNESS ...
AND IF ONE DOESN'T POSSESS A HEART WITH WHICH TO DISCERN THAT KINDNESS...
CAN BE HARD TO SEE.
YOUR KINDNESS, HOTSUMA-KUN,
WITH ONE'S EYES,
ISN'T CASUALLY SEEN...
IT'S THE SAME AS IF THAT KINDNESS NEVER EXISTED.
I'M SURE ...
IT'S THERE.
I CAN FEEL.
BUT IT'S VERY WARM, AS WELL...
THAT'S WHAT...

HM?
flutter
EVERY-ONE...
LEAVES ME.
HOME!
THAT'S FINE, RIGHT!?
HOTSUMA-KUN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING..?
turn
HUH?
A BLACK FURBALL?
SHIT ...
I CAN'T...
GET MY HOPES UP.


Ah.
He spat fire.
ZOOOM

HOTSUMA? REALLY?
HE JUST QUIETLY CAME ALONG ...?

AND SHE YELLED THAT SHE WANTS A BATH FIRST THING AND INVITED AYA..
TOKO JUST GOT BACK HERSELF,
They might be in there.
Nah,
...DID HE GO TO HIS ROOM?
HE'S FILTHY, SO I SENT HIM TO THE BATH.
YUKI-KUN'S WITH HIM.
HM?
The bath?
WOW . .
I THOUGHT ONLY SHUSEI COULD DO THAT.
YEAH, RIGHT?
YUKI-KUN IS REALLY SOMETHING.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
Stuff like this.
... GEEZ,
WHY DO I HAVE TO PLAY NICE AND HAVE A BATH WITH YOU!?
Tch!
Slack
LOOK, I'VE GOT NO PLANS ON BEING FRIENDS WITH YOU. .

IDIOTS!
LECHERS!
PER-VERTS!!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!?
EEEEK! EEEEK!
+HWACK
Ow!
HOW DARE YOU PEEK AT US!!
IT'S BROKEN!
I PUT UP AN OCCUPIED SIGN, DIDN'T I!?
KEEP CLOSED
Girls Bathing
IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE SEEING YOU, LOCK THE DOOR! LOCK IT!
SLAM
WE JUST GOT IN, BUT SINCE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, YOU CAN JOIN US. ♡
NOPE, YOU'RE FINE, YUKI-CHAN.
Ah!
HUH?
HANK
Actually, just a little no, umm
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING. NOT A THING, SO...
HUSH
UM... S-SORRY ...

BUT ISN'T THAT YUKI'S VOICE?
Hm?
Ah. THERE'S A SHRIEK. ♡
AAAA

BE KIND OF WEIRD?
SINCE YUKI-KUN HAS BEEN A GIRL UP UNTIL NOW, WON'T BATHING WITH HIM...
HUH?
Hehehe
I guess you can bathe with me now too
!!!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
Don't compare me to you, pisses me off
SINCE ALLLLL MEN ARE LECHERS.
RIGHT?
IF HE STRIPS DOWN, MAYBE HE'S ACTUALLY A...
IS HE REALLY, TRULY A GUY?
!?
Look
YUKI-KUN HAS SUCH A CUTE FACE.
I'M A GUY, I SWEAR!
What an idiotic conversation
QUIT MAKIN' ME IMAGINE WEIRD STUFF!!
Master Stroke.
KIDDING!

HE'S SUCH A PAIN!
LIVES TO TEASE PEOPLE
THAT GUY...
Tachi-bana-San is so mean...

..THAT'S RIGHT, TSUKUMO-KUN, WHAT WAS THAT JOB YOU HAD?
Hm?
FINDING A CRIMINAL.
TAKASHIRO-SAMA IS GOING TO EXPLAIN IT TONIGHT, BUT...
TO LOOK FOR A CRIMINAL.
WE USED MY "EARS OF GOD" AND SHUSEI'S "EYES OF GOD"...
AH... THAT'S RIGHT, SHUSE.-KUN'S SPECIAL ABILITY...
IS CLAIRVOY-ANCE HE CAN USE TO "SEE" CRIMINALS.
..YOU CAN TOO, TSUKUMO-KUN?
NO, MY ABILITY...
IS TO "HEAR" THE MEMORIES OF AN OBJECT I'M HOLDING.
WOW... YOU CAN DO A LOT OF STUFF.
You can also
HEAR THE VOICES OF ANIMALS...
Yeah
AND THE VOICES OF PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
DO ALL..
OF THE ZWEILTS HAVE SPECIAL ABILITIES LIKE THAT?
WELL... MOST OF US.

.....
I CAN CURSE PEOPLE I HATE WITH MY VOICE!
AND HOW DOES THAT WORK?
LIKE, HOTSUMA'S SPECIAL ABILITY...
IS THE "VOICE OF GOD".
Hmph
THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU PEOPLE CALL IT.
HO-TSUMA!
THE PEOPLE THAT I CURSE...
BURN IN THE FIRES OF HELL.
SLSH
MY POWER . .
... SORRY, BUT...
HAS NEVER ONCE BROUGHT ABOUT ANY-THING GOOD.
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S NOT ABOUT CURS NG PEOPLE.
HOTSUMA'S POWER IS TO MAKE PEOPLE TAKE ON "HIS INTENT" THROUGH H S VOICE

I...
ACTUALLY THINK IT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT ABILITY..
HOTSUMA-KUN...
...I SEE...
TO HANDLE
IT'S AN ABILITY THAT MAY BE INVOKED ...
WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT, IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS.
TO KEEP YOURSELF FROM FEELING TOO MUCH ANGER OR HATRED AGAINST OTHER PEOPLE..
REQUIRES A STRONG HEART...
BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT IT'S THE CREEPIEST POWER OF THEM ALL.
CALL IT THE "VOICE OF GOD" ALL YOU WANT,
YOU'D ALSO BETTER BE CAREFUL...
SO THAT YOU DON'T GET CURSED.
clack
HAS HAD TO BEAR THIS AS WELL...
HO...
TSUMA..
Jolt

THAT I GAVE YOU.
THE WOUND ...
..IT'S FINE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE OUT BY NOW FOR SURE..
YOU TOOK A LONG BATH TODAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.
MY POWER .. CAN ONLY HURT PEOPLE...
HOTSU-MA,
I DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT.
AND I HAVE NO REGRETS.
DO SUCH A—
.. AGAIN ..
...I WILL NEVER..
——!

OH, SHUSEI.
clack
I...
LIVE EVERY DAY MAKING UP FOR IT.
WELCOME BACK, SHUSE-KUN.
THANKS, YUKI.
...?
...SCARS...?
SORRY.
YEAH...
EVEN YOUR POWER WON'T WORK.
NOT ON THESE SCARS...
UM... CAN I HEAL THEM...
WITH MY POWER...?
THEY'RE BURN SCARS.
AH...

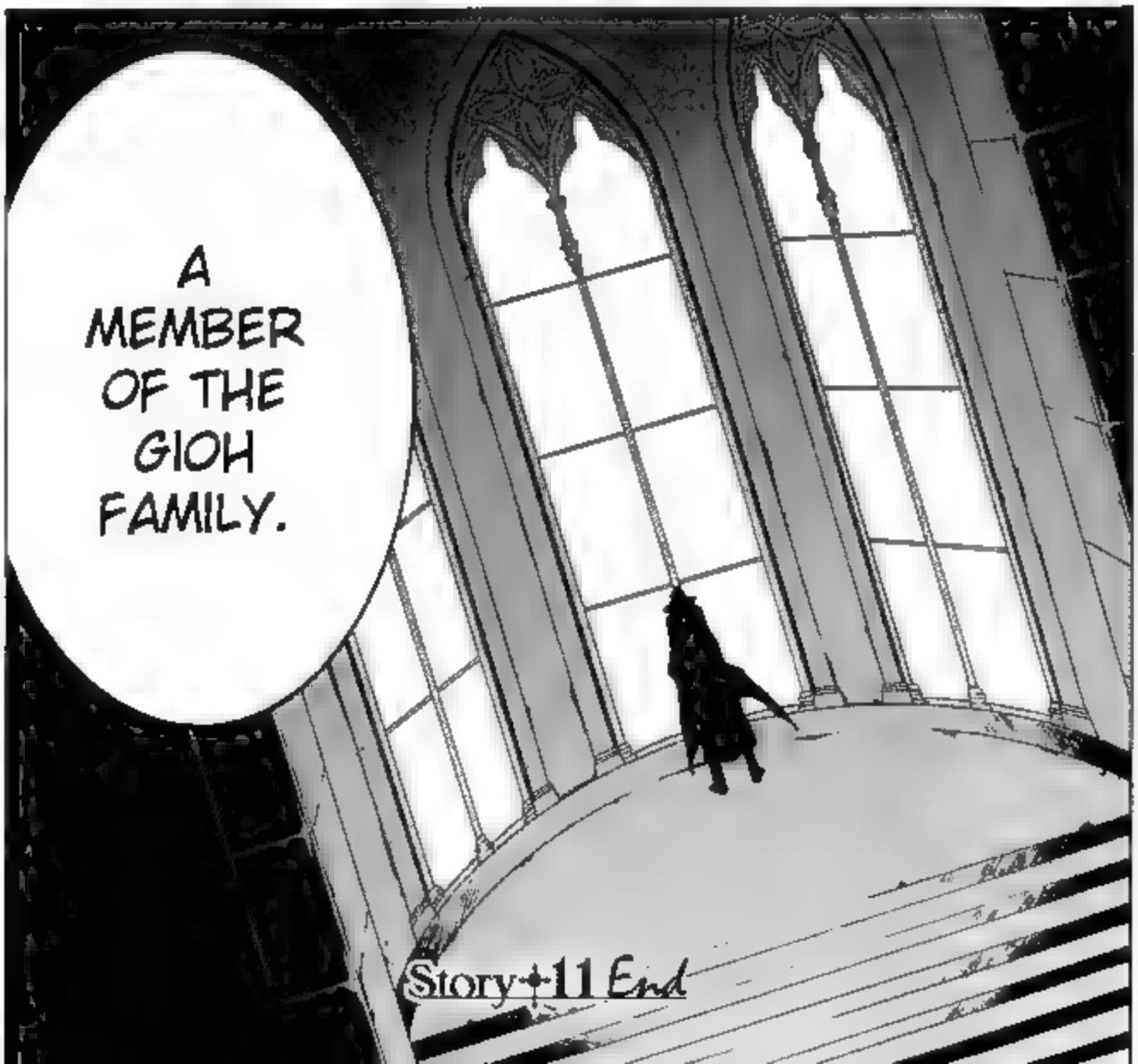
Rush!2
IF THEY WERE MARKS THAT COULD BE REMOVED,
I WOULD'VE WANTED YOU TO HEAL THEM, THOUGH.
IT SEEMS ...
AN OPAST HAS BEGUN TO MAKE ITS MOVE.
THIS MORNING, A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WAS FOUND HAVING DIED OF UNNATURAL CAUSES.
ALSO...
FOR THE PAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS, SEVERAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HAVE GONE MISSING.
SHUSEI AND TSUKUMO
TRIED TO GET A LEAD ON THE CRIMINAL,
AS WELL AS TRACK DOWN THE MISSING PERSONS.
—AND...
THEY DETERMINED THERE'S AN OPAST INVOLVED?

NO,
THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
TSUKUMO TRIED SEARCHING WITH THE DECEASED TEACHER'S BELONGINGS, AND HAD A SIMILAR LACK OF RESULTS.
—WITH HIS ABILITY TO "HEAR",
YOU COULD SAY THAT,
SO LONG AS IT'S "IN THIS WORLD", THERE IS NOTHING SHUSEI'S CLAIRVOYANCE CANNOT FIND.
WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
THAT WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ISN'T IN THIS WORLD.
ANOTHER WORLD..
OR MAYBE THE CRIMINAL IS IN SOME LOCATION...
ISOLATED USING A BARRIER OR SOMETHING SIMILAR.
IF HE CAN DO THAT,
HE'S A HIGH-RANKING DURAS.
WE CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE WITH THE INFORMATION WE HAVE,
BUT THE "SLEEPING PRINCESS SYNDROME", WHERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SLEEP WITHOUT WAKING,
MAY BE FUNDAMENTALLY CONNECTED.

I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO COLLECT INFORMATION AT SCHOOL.
THE KEYWORD IS "HIGH SCHOOL".
YES,
"REIGA" HAS BEGUN TO MOVE.
TAKA-SHIRO-SAMA...
IF AN OPAST HAS APPEARED, THAT MEANS...
YUKI.
.. ..
YOU'RE DOING GREAT.
pat
pat
I HEARD ...
THAT YOU MADE A BARRIER.
YEAH... I MANAGED TO.

CAN I...
ASK ONE THING?
HM?
Haha.
HOW COLD.
Naturally
...TAKA-SHIRO-SAN.
I HEARD THAT YOU EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO DESTROY MY CAR TO PROTECT YUKI.
MANY THANKS...
AND AS FOR THE GUY GRIMACING OVER THERE...
...YOU...
REALLY ARE FULL OF SURPRISES.
THIS SCAR ON YOUR CHEEK...
CAN I HEAL IT WITH MY POWER..?
...THAT'S RIGHT, YUKI...
THERE ARE WOUNDS THAT CANNOT BE HEALED EVEN WITH YOUR POWER—
THOSE ARE WOUNDS WE RECEIVED FROM OUR COMRADES.

HE...
IS THE STRONGEST NECROMANCER OUT THERE, ABLE TO SUMMON EVEN OPASTS.
HUH ...?
I'VE TOLD YOU.. ABOUT HOW REIGA IS OUR OLD ENEMY?
I RECEIVED THIS WOUND FROM REIGA.
COM.. RADES?
——AND HE'S ALSO OUR COMRADE...


A MEMBER OF THE GIOH FAMILY.

Story+11 End

裏僕FC☆ 公認ファンコーナー

サイン会レポート

そんなこんなで サイン会当日

サイン会開始

いろんな方が来て下さいました。

いろいろぶつかったり。

豆腐上の屋根に。

お願いします。

ふるえる

初々しいなかわいらしい

ふるふる

フル立てに。

私はどんなだらしない顔がなんぼのもんじゃ

ぐらぐら

正直和みました

でも逃げる時に去ってしまう

●母の女のコ。礼儀正しく服のセンスもよい。

密かに思っていましたが

かわいい&きれいな方が多かったです♡

●たぶん書店のスタッフさんたち

ありがとー

アニメイトさんいたれりつくせりで

海外の放送とかさいましたね

●編集部のTさん。

かっこよい美人。花束をくださいました。

ニヤケてないとき…♡

女のコ、みるのも描くのも大好き。(絵)

でも男性の方が来て下さったのもとても嬉しかった♪

また違った感慨が

私は今囲まれている

たくさんの花たちに囲まれ潤いある生活です。

うちの殺伐としたところ

差し入れまでもありがとうです♡

ばふ

ばふ

ばふ

だう

暑い中お集まり下さった読者の皆さま、本当に有難うございました！

アニメイト渋谷店の皆さま

編集部の皆さま

関係者の皆さまに

厚く御礼申し上げます。

感謝！

感謝！

お疲れさまー

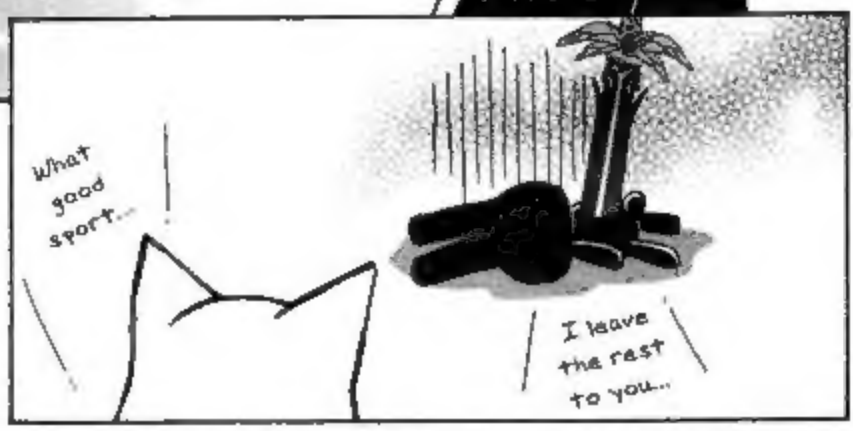
私ら上げでは編集部の方々によるかけ合い漫才がくり広げられました。

ここは10年が1年？

Extra: Takashiro-sama's Enjoyment

"IS IT OK IF I START CALLING YOU 'BIG BROTHER'?"
NO! THIS TIME, FOR SURE, I'LL SAY IT!
HAVEN'T I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT!?
Like call someone "dad," or "mom"...
THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE JUST GOTTA SAY IT REALLY NATURALLY...!!
.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
R-RIGHT!
I JUST THOUGHT ...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO BE OF HELP TO EVERYONE!?
Really unnatural.
AAAH...! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT~ (SOB)
MY SPECIAL SKILLS ARE MARTIAL ARTS... AND MAKING ACCES-SORIES ...
OH, IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU... MAKE SOME PROTEC-TION CHARMS?
And I rarely get to see him, too...
Dejected
Previous pastime:
Teasing Luka.
Glare
Hehehe...
I WONDER WHEN HE'LL CALL ME THAT.
WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Did you find a new pastime?
TAKA-SHIRO-SAMA...
CAN YOU PLEASE STOP SMIRK-ING LIKE THAT?
It's creepy.
Though he still continues to tease him now...

Extra: Script Objections



"I'm never reading the script again! Not ever!" -by Hotsuma

ホリマの「郎」の字って難しいですよね。それをいったら、ムラサメの「叢」の字も見ないと私、書けませんが(コラ)。あすかの全キCDで、夕日の声を保志総一朗さんに演って頂いたのですが、保志さんにも「(名前の)漢字難しいですね」といわれてしまいました。(タイトルも「長いですね……。」と苦しんでいらっしゃった…スミマセンの) でも日本語の美しさとかがみの漢字の形とかにうっとりしてしまう私は、こだわらずにいられないのです。 あ、『保志さん夕日』はどちら様にも大好評でした!! へへっ。(あんたの手柄ではない) これで運使い果したかもなあ 私…。

と信じています（ああでも、いつもお世話になっております～～～！）。
▶差し入れのお礼状も含め、お手紙のお返事など、本当は出させて頂きたいのですが、何分時間がなく…まとまったお休みが貰えるまで、待ってて下さいね。というわけで、お返事ですが、「いつ」とか「必ず」とかいえるものではなく、また、暑中見舞いなどのハガキになるか、封書になるかもその時の気分次第なので、返信用切手は入れないで下さい。
逆に欲しくない人、家庭の事情的に「そんなの突然届いたら困る！」という人だけ、その旨お書きそえ下さいね。
なにはともあれ、ご意見・ご感想・ご質問・その他、お手紙いただけると嬉しいです♡ まんがを描くって、楽しいコトばかりじゃなくてね、苦しく辛いコトもフツーにある（というか殆どヤサグレている。私は）。そんなグレグレ心を、フワっと救い上げてくれるのが皆さまのお手紙なのです！ 私に描く勇気を下さる皆さんに、本当に感謝しています（海外から下さる方も…！）。あと、私は単純なので、○○が好きとか書いてあると、そのキャラの出番を増やしたりする（笑）。（ドクターとか…出番が増えぎみ。彼に熱烈ファンコールを下さる方がいるので（笑））。
▶もちろん私1人では作品を世に送り出せません！ 手伝ってくれるKさん（この人がいないと私はろくにまんがが描けないと思う…）スタッフの皆、そして情熱を持って頑張ってくれている担当さん…いつも私を支えてくれて有難うです。
▶皆々様から愛情とサポートをしっかり受け止めまして、大切に物語を育てて、また読んで頂けるように頑張りますね。3巻は少し早くお届けできるかな～と願いつつ…宜しければ、また☆

▶何げにサイン会のレポなど載っていますが…やらせて頂きました。1巻が出る時に。来て下さるだけでも有難いのに、本っ当ーにいろんなモノをいただきまして…有難うございました♪ そういえばいただいた鉢植えやサボテンは現在もすくすく育っております。…珍しく。いえ、ウチはですね、どんなにガンジョーな植物でも枯れることで有名で…（身内の間で）。
結構ショックではあるので、今回はホント元気でいてくれて嬉しいです♡
▶読者の皆さまにお会いすると、大抵の方に「まんがのイメージ通り」といわれるのですが、さて、私はどんなふうだと思われているの…か……？（笑）周囲の人々によくいわれるのは「予想を裏切って男らしい」…なんですが（女としてはどうよ？ ってコトですね（笑））。ガッツあふれてるから？
それでもって生活能力は乏しいらしい（…）。

「お菓子ならクッキー、お茶なら紅茶のイメージ」ともよくいわれるなー。
"ほたる"って名前のせいかな（←ホントは関係ない）
実際もうんと飲むのは日本茶、甘い物はめったに食べないデス。
好きな食べ物ときたら、ネギ、玉ネギそして海苔……
↑コレいうと大抵びかれる（笑）

▶そして、打ち上げの席で「サイン会面白いから、次は地方行脚でもしましょうか」と仰ったのは、副編集長のS氏です。「じゃあその時はお休みをください」といった私に、「いや…原稿はホテルでやってもらうということで」とも……し――ん。アレは軽いジョークだった

SPECIAL THANKS
K-San・A.FUJISAKI・H.MATSUO
K.O・E.Y・S.K
Y.SUZUKI …and 編集部の皆さま

お手紙の宛先
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➡To be continued.